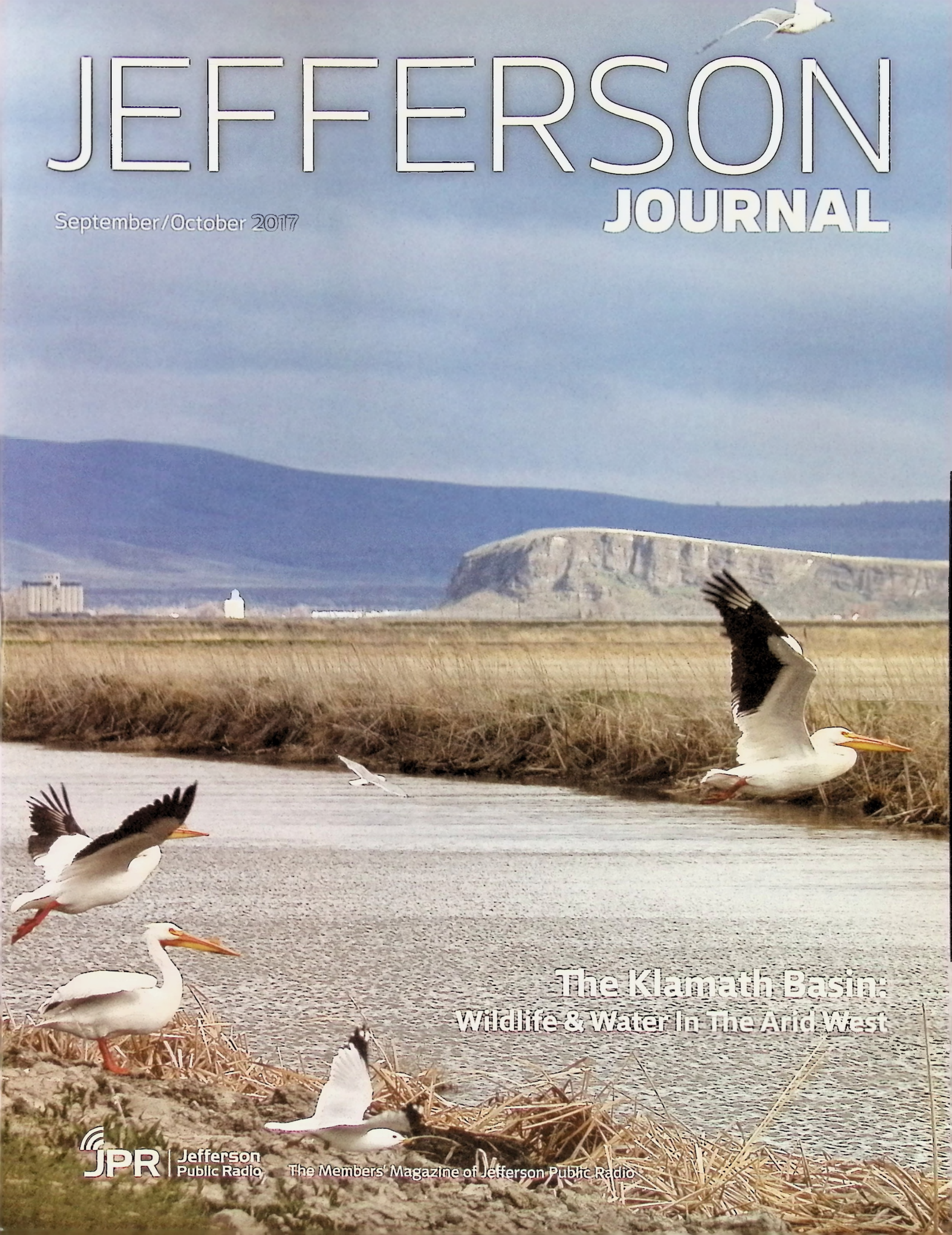


# JEFFERSON JOURNAL

September/October 2017



**The Klamath Basin:  
Wildlife & Water In The Arid West**

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PHOTO: JES BURNS, OPB/EARTHFIX  
Tule Lake Refuge Marsh

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By Jes Burns

In a three-part series on the wildlife refuges of the Klamath Basin and water in the arid West, OPB/EarthFix reporter Jes Burns takes a look at the diminishing population of birds present in the Klamath Basin's six wildlife refuges. Burns also examines how the controversial but common practice of farming on the Klamath wildlife refuges has resulted in an interesting new direction for agriculture across the basin.

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COVER: White Pelicans patrol Tule Lake. Photo: Jes Burns, OPB/EarthFix

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In a recent update to stations around the country about a report issued by the House Appropriations Committee related to ongoing federal funding for public broadcasting, CPB President and CEO Patricia Harrison described the value of our collective work in a way I think is worth sharing with you. Here is an excerpt of Harrison's communication:

*"Public media has been called America's storyteller for good reason. Through our programs we amplify the voices of our fellow Americans – diverse in age, gender, geography, race and political point of view – and provide communities across the country with the opportunity to connect with and better understand one another.*

*We are committed to telling these authentic stories which cannot be categorized as supporting "identity politics" but represent instead who we all are and aspire to be as Americans fully participating in our civil society.*

*CPB identifies with the words of retired four-star General Stanley A. McChrystal who describes public media as a lever that "... pushes people, not in a certain direction, but it pushes people up. It brings them to understanding more, and to thinking more."*

*Our only direction, leaning neither right or left, is upward. We at CPB are committed to advancing public media's mission, the work that you do every day in your communities, and the educational, thought-provoking content that helps to strengthen our civil society and that reflects all the diversity of our nation.*

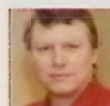
While CPB operates mainly in the background of the national public broadcasting ecosystem, it is part of the core of what makes public broadcasting a unique American institution.

*In the coming fiscal year, we are developing more plans to focus resources on issues of importance to Americans, ranging from the opioid crisis, to workforce challenges in a changing world and capturing authentic stories and voices from rural America.*

*Unlike commercial media, public media was created to fill a need: to create and deliver content that is fact-based, educational, informational and thought provoking. Content that can and does serve the civil society requirements of the American people. That is really our mission—to ensure we play an important role through public media moving toward an educated and informed civil society. Every day through our content and services, locally and nationally, we move to make that vision a reality."*

Each day JPR joins NPR member stations around the country in pursuit of this aspirational vision. In an age when so many media outlets have become partisan echo chambers and where adhering to disciplined journalistic standards has become optional, this pursuit is more important than ever. We're grateful to the diverse range of partners which make our work possible: our licensee, Southern Oregon University; the JPR Foundation, which actively raises essential funding; regional business underwriters and foundations; and, last but not least, the more than 9,000 contributors who step forward each year to support our service to the region.

As we approach our fall fundraising campaign I hope you'll reflect on the role JPR plays to help create the "educated and informed civil society" envisioned by CPB here in Southern Oregon and Northern California. And, whether you tune in for our contextual, fact-based news, inspired music or creative storytelling programs, I hope you'll continue to support our effort to "push people up" here in the rural communities that we call home.



Paul Westhelle is  
JPR's Executive Director.



# THE KLAMATH BASIN:

## *Wildlife & Water In The Arid West*

Article and Photos by Jes Burns

### PART 1

## Birds Take Backseat To Fish, Farms In The Klamath Basin

**D**riving around Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge is like being on bird safari. Guides today are refuge manager Greg Austin and biologist John Vradenburg.

"Starting to see the white-faced ibis," says Austin, manager of the six preserves that make up the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Austin and Vradenburg look out of the dusty car window at ibis wading in the distance.

"Yeah, this is the first time I've seen it today," Vradenburg confirms.

Lower Klamath is a place of paradox. The wide-open landscape is a disconcerting contrast of wildness and impeccable human control. Gravel roads run along a grid of dikes separating wetlands from fields of wheat and barley. Irrigation channels, dams and water pumps crisscross the landscape.

Austin stops at a massive expanse of marshy field.

"That's the first time we've had water on that in years," he says.

His voice is tinged with sadness.

"Ten years at least," Vradenburg says, matching Austin's rueful tone.

The refuge is functionally near the bottom of a long hierarchy of water users in the basin. And over the past few years, the refuge wetlands haven't been wet at all.

The coots, plovers, willets, godwits, grebes, and gulls don't know the history of this land. They only know there's water right now.

But Vradenburg says by the end of July, the water in this field will likely be gone. So the refuge, which was set aside by President Theodore Roosevelt as a haven for waterfowl, is pumping the water away to force the birds to leave.

"We can't afford to have a whole bunch of areas that are going to attract a large number of birds in to nest, and then pull the bottom out from under them because the water's not there," Vradenburg explains.

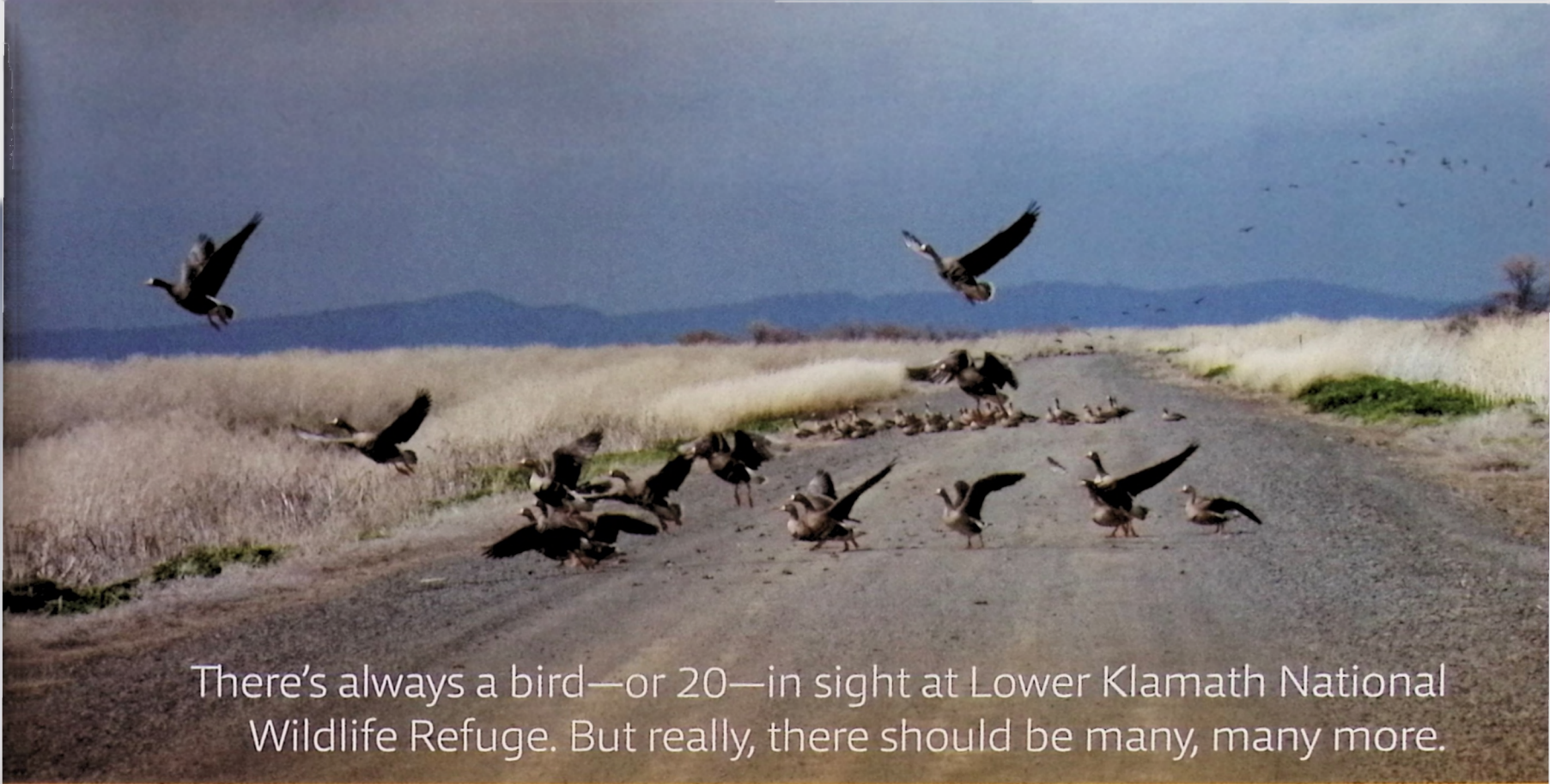
This is the deep irony of Lower Klamath's place in the basin. The natural systems that once kept the land wet have long been altered and now the refuge depends largely on water deliveries from the Bureau of Reclamation, the federal agency that controls the massive Klamath Basin irrigation project.

And despite having enough snow and rain last winter to end the Western drought, the refuge was given no guarantee of getting any more water this year.

"To know that you had this kind of water year, and the watershed is as wet as it is, and we may be still dealing with the same drought-like conditions that we've dealt with for the recent past history," Vradenburg says. "I don't know how we manage for that."







There's always a bird—or 20—in sight at Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. But really, there should be many, many more.

PREVIOUS PAGE: Yellow headed blackbirds make their homes in the marshes of Upper Klamath.

## The Water

About 20 miles north of the refuge, Jim McCarthy of the environmental group WaterWatch walks along a trail by Upper Klamath Lake. The narrow inlet above the Link River Dam attracts several mid-morning fishermen.

"How's fishing?" McCarthy asks as he passes.

"No bites yet. Still trying to catch one," an angler responds. This is the main reservoir for the Klamath Basin.

It's a large shallow lake featuring high temperatures, massive algae blooms and the occasional trophy redband trout.

McCarthy says the refuge has an early water right that should give it the same access to this water as the oldest farms here. But he says the Bureau of Reclamation isn't honoring those rights.

"If you have an agency coming in and using their power to deny legal water claims, that's a very bad precedent," he says. "That should set off alarm bells all across the West."

At the very least, McCarthy says the bureau should extend the same courtesy to the refuge that it extends to farmers on the project. Each spring, the Bureau of Reclamation gives water delivery estimates to farmers based on winter precipitation levels.

"The bureau makes a big deal—and I think it's totally appropriate—how they want to provide water certainty to the irrigators so they can plan their crops and plan their year and do what they need to do and make a living," he says.

The bureau hasn't given any kind of certainty to the refuges since 2013.

"(That's) what allows the refuge to exist and fulfill its purposes: if it knows what water it's receiving and the plans that they can make to provide breeding habitat and other kinds of habitat for birds."

## The Faucet

Evidence of the simmering tension over water bubbles up frequently in the Klamath Basin. You can ask about anything, "as long as you don't talk about water or fish or wildlife or wetlands. But everything else you can talk about," joked one federal employee.

At the Bureau of Reclamation office near Klamath Falls, this sentiment is a bit more subtle—and comes in the form of locked entries, barricades and fences (some of these measures, no-doubt, were post 9-11 security upgrades).

The building is squat and not aging very gracefully. It's surrounded by modular outbuildings that resemble trailers. Yet this is a seat of power.

"We're the ones that open and close the faucet so we do get characterized as the agency or entity that rules the water in the Klamath," says Jason Cameron, deputy area manager for the bureau's Klamath Basin office.

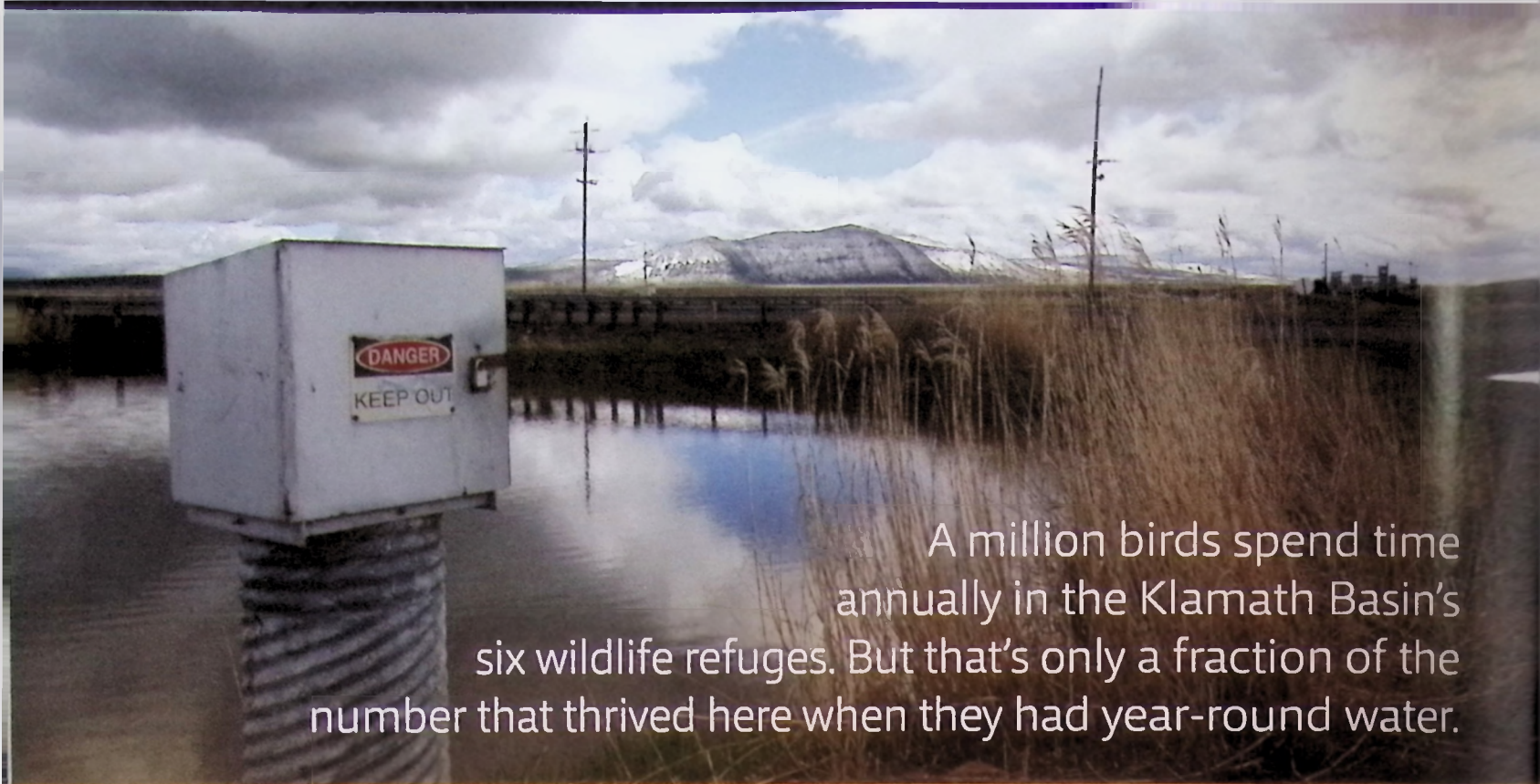
But Cameron says the bureau is only following the law.

Lower Klamath does have an early water right that gives them the same legal entitlement to water as the oldest farms on the Klamath Irrigation Project. The problem is physical access.

"If you do not have direct access to the source of water, then the water right holder together with the (land)owners (in) between ... need to work closely together. Because the water right does not give the right to trespass over somebody else's property," says Tom Paul, special assistant to the director of the Oregon Water Resources Department, the state agency that manages water rights.

Irrigators on the Klamath Project have contracts that give them a priority for water delivery—this aligns closely with when the farmer and the land they use became part of the project.





A million birds spend time annually in the Klamath Basin's six wildlife refuges. But that's only a fraction of the number that thrived here when they had year-round water.

Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge used to be intricately connected to the Klamath River. This is the only connection point that remains: an irrigation canal.

"In those contract and then the prioritization system, it's pretty clear that we need to meet our contractual obligations prior to making water available to the wildlife refuge," says Reclamation's Cameron.

At this point, the refuge doesn't have a formal agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to use project infrastructure to receive water. And without a contract-like arrangement, the refuges are out of luck.

## Fish Over Birds

Perhaps a more immediate legal hurdle for the refuges getting water, somewhat ironically, is the Endangered Species Act. Three fish in the Klamath Basin—two species of sucker fish and the Klamath River coho salmon—are protected species under the law.

"In years past, prior to Endangered Species Act requirements on the project, there was ample water available for the refuge," says Reclamation Deputy Director Cameron.

The latest round of requirements came in the form of a 2013 report by two federal agencies assessing the Klamath project's impact on imperiled fish and their habitat. This biological opinion by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service serves as an instruction manual of sorts for protecting these fish.

Cameron says because of that document, the bureau doesn't have any discretion on how much water the refuges can receive.

"In a nutshell, the 2013 biological opinion accounts for all of the water in the system. And clearly articulate how much water can go when and where," he says.

The opinion cuts off the water completely to the refuges from March through the end of May. And then it says the refuges will only get water in the summer if the fish have enough and the project's farmers get everything they need. And in fact, this latest version of has been even more onerous in terms of water for the refuges.



Klamath National Wildlife Refuge Complex Manager Greg Austin.

"The biological opinions previously didn't specify what you could or couldn't deliver to the refuges, where in the current biological opinion it does," Cameron says.

Reclamation won't know with certainty if there's going to be water left until later in the season, although Lower Klamath started receiving some water in July.

So who gets the water in the Klamath Basin? First fish, then farms and then, if they're lucky... the birds.

Ron Cole retired as Klamath Refuge Manager in 2014, a year after Reclamation stopped budgeting water for Lower Klamath.

"As a manager, I had no problem with the refuge giving up water to help endangered fish. But that's been going on for a long time now, and we haven't seen any real change in the fish population," he says.

What has changed are the refuges. Nesting waterfowl, nesting shorebirds, migratory shorebirds, the number of birds, the number of waterfowl that migrate through the basin, have declined. Cole says there are species that once used the refuges that are now gone.

"They're not endangered so no one's worried about that," he says.





Kait White of Grants Pass saw 43 different species of birds in one day at the Klamath National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Cole says a complex history and politics brought us to this moment.

"You want to keep the Endangered Species Act working and helping fish. You want to keep the economy of the basin functioning as best you can. If someone was going to have to give something up, there's just not enough support to keep water on the refuge."

### Making It Flow

As intractable as the refuges' water situation is, there are ideas for getting the water to flow once again for the birds.

Some involved look to the past, and the possibility of an agreement like the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement. This was a long-negotiated water agreement, full of compromise and promise. It effectively died when Congress failed to pass legislation to fund the deal.

"You look back on the old KBRA and it was groups getting together and compromising... knowing you're not going to get everything you want but working together. I think as a community we'd be a lot better off with that," says Austin, the current refuge manager.

The KBRA would have given the refuges some water certainty each year, as well as funneling more revenue made off farming on the refuges to pay for wildlife management.

"We believe we need a balanced approach because, without that, we have to legally write the biological opinions," Austin says.

Last year's new agreement to remove four Klamath River dams called for a restart of KBRA-like negotiations. But as of yet no meetings between the interests in the basin are underway.

Another possible way forward has also recently emerged.

Before the change of administrations in January, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Mike Connor signed a memo saying Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge met the requirement to get the highest priority water delivery priority from the Bureau of Reclamation.

In June, a bi-partisan group of lawmakers from California and Oregon (including Democratic Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and Republican Rep. Greg Walden) drafted a letter to current Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke asking for a more reliable supply of water to the Klamath Refuges.

The letter specifically asks for the bureau to negotiate high-priority water delivery contract (it would technically be a memorandum of agreement) for the refuges.

Refuge and Reclamation staff say they had a preliminary meeting in June to discuss a way forward.

The letter also requests that the up-coming revision of the biological opinion should include changes to water delivery restriction on the refuges because "the criteria under the current biological opinion are almost impossible to meet."

And this has never been more evident than this year: The entire Klamath Basin is lousy with water and Lower Klamath Refuge and the hundreds of species of birds that use it have been left with the liquid equivalent of scraps.

## PART 2

### What Happens To Birds When Wildlife Refuges Dry Up?

A line of binoculars point upwards at a ridge on the edge of Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge. There's an owl's nest in a small cave about 150 feet up, and Charlotte Kisling has her scope trained.

"That's a male barn owl in the scope," she says to the group standing on the edge of the two-lane road.

"How do you know?"

"Females are tawny," Kisling replies.

She knows a lot about birds and isn't shy about sharing.

"Oh, I thought it was winking."

It takes a pregnant moment for this comedic bit to land, but Kevin Spencer gets some appreciative chuckles from his fellow birders.

Spencer is leading this Klamath Audubon Society birding field trip through two of the Klamath National Wildlife Refuges straddling the Oregon-California border. He doesn't get a chance at an encore joke because another raptor comes on stage.

"There's a prairie falcon flying!" Kisling yells in excitement.

The group tracks the brown mottled bird and its mate swoop and dip along the ridge. The high-pitched cries bounce off a rock wall and out over the miles of open valley floor behind the group.

"Look at this show. Just enjoy it," she says, obviously doing so herself.

People travel here from all over the world to visit the Klamath Refuges. It's one of the best spots for birding in the United States. There are birding trails, birding festivals—an entire birding economy in the Klamath Basin.

Today it's a Southern Oregon crowd on the Audubon field trip, which is focusing not on raptors, but on shorebirds.

Kait White recently moved to Grants Pass from Georgia, and says she immediately heard recommendations to visit the refuges.

"My species list—I write everything down—is so long compared to other places you go to see one specific species or one or two things. But not like this," she says. "We must have seen like 45 species today, so pretty awesome."

And across the six preserves in the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex, there's a place for every bird.

Sage grouse strut at Clear Lake.

Bald eagles roost at Bear Valley.

White pelicans patrol Klamath Marsh.

Terns summer at Tule Lake.

Red-winged blackbirds hide at Upper Klamath.



And their yellow-headed counterparts sing across the border in Lower.

But all this abundance could be deceptive.

## Closing The Windows

Stories go around the Klamath Basin about the birds and how many there used to be.

"I talked to people that grew up here in the '20s and '30s," says Ron Cole, former manager of the refuge complex.

Cole started at the refuges as a technician in the 1980s, left for a while, and then came back as manager in the early 2000s.

"The classrooms in Tulelake during the fall migration, the white-fronted geese were so numerous that the teachers would have to close the windows so she could talk to the class," he says. "Because it was so loud."

Now Cole says if you see a flock of white-fronted geese flying over the town of Tulelake in the fall, it's a big deal.

That decline in birds is the story of the Klamath Refuges.

"Historically, it was thought that these refuges here had the highest concentrations of waterfowl found anywhere in the world," says Bob Hunter, with the environmental group Water-Watch.

The Klamath refuges are located in the heart of the Pacific Flyway—one of the major migratory bird routes in the world, stretching from the southern tip of South America to Alaska. And a majority of the waterfowl on the flyway come through the Klamath Basin.

"This is the bottleneck right here. This is one of the few places where they can come where there are still wetlands available—a mix of wetland habitats that can provide a place for rest and re-nourishment on their migration both north and south in the spring and the fall," Hunter said.

But populations here have plummeted over the past century, in part because of what humans have done to the landscape in the Klamath Basin. The estimated number of birds using the refuges have dropped from more than 7 million birds a year in the 1950s to closer to 1 million currently.

Because the birds migrate, problems in the basin likely aren't the only reason. But the ecosystems here have been highly altered. Marsh connectivity has been lost and as much as 80 percent of the original wetlands in the basin have been drained; much of that area now used for agriculture.

The rate of habitat loss from development has slowed considerably. Recently though, the major issue in the basin has been lack of water. The water supply has been stretched thin—so thin that in an average water year, often there's someone who won't get the water they want. Even in good water years the refuges have no certainty they'll get water.

Without this certainty, the ability of wildlife managers to plan for the season has been diminished, invasive plants are running rampant and disease has killed thousands of birds.

Conditions are changing on the refuges.

"We're turning into more of a spring and fall migration stopover," says current refuge manager Greg Austin.

Austin says the refuges haven't been able to provide nesting habitat because they haven't been able to keep water on the land.

"Historically, you'd have water here in the summer—permanent wetland units—that you would get a lot of breeding birds. And we don't have that anymore," he says.

## Protecting Postage Stamps

John Alexander of the Klamath Bird Observatory has seen this loss in his work.

Paddling on the Upper Klamath Refuge canoe trail, he's yelled at by birds perched on the reedy marsh and green lino-leum swaths of lily pad called wocus.

"We'll just tuck up into this little channel and sit tight a little bit. And hope that some of our black terns show up," Alexander says as the canoe pushes through the lily pads.

The first of this year's terns should be arriving any day. They'll spend a couple weeks on the marsh pairing off and then they'll build nests in the great sea of tules Upper Klamath is known for.

"(Upper Klamath is) a postage stamp of what wetland habitats probably were in the West originally," Alexander says.

For a decade, the observatory tracked migratory black terns that nest in and around Upper Klamath. What they found was alarming.

While the terns' numbers have remained relatively stable elsewhere, they declined here by 8 percent each year.

Alexander says rising and falling bird populations could be used to help determine the health of these wetlands.

"The consequences for society might not be as apparent as they could be," he says, dipping his paddle into the calm, dark water. "All of this represents clean water downstream. And all



LEFT: Birders on a Klamath Audubon Society field trip look for shorebirds on Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. ABOVE: Bald eagles rest on roosts at Tule Lake. Farmers say real eagles can help drive destructive geese out of fields.





John Alexander with the Klamath Bird Observatory looked at black tern populations in the Klamath Basin.

of this represents healthier watersheds that hold more water in the long run in a climate change scenario.”

For Alexander, the immediate question is not whether there's enough protected wetland habitat in the Klamath Basin, but...

“Are we taking care of the postage stamp?”

### And The Answer Is...

It would be pretty difficult to find a person who knows the situation at the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex and would still answer that question “yes.”

Bob Sallinger, conservation director of the Audubon Society of Portland, definitely would not. Instead, he'd take things a step further and place at least some of the blame on the refuges themselves—specifically the people that manage them.

Audubon is one of several groups suing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over a new Comprehensive Conservation Plan for managing the refuges. The plan was released early this year. The suit argues the refuges aren't doing what they should be doing to protect the birds.

“I would have hoped they would have seen this as a proactive opportunity to take a hard look at the (refuges) and figure out if what they're doing makes sense. How it can be adjusted. And instead they double down on doing things exactly the way they previously did it,” Sallinger says.

Sallinger says the refuges' primary mission is to manage for waterfowl—all waterfowl. But the new conservation plan only takes into account a select few species.

### Just Add Memories

Retired refuge manager Cole is no fan of environmental groups' legal challenges against the way the Klamath refuges are being operated. But he agrees with them on one thing. “This is something, that honestly, you just add water. It's that simple. You just add water,” he says.

“This is something, that honestly, you just add water. It's that simple. You just add water,” he says.

Cole has another old story about the refuges. It goes like this: It's 12 o'clock in the afternoon.

The birds get up into the air.

And you can't see the sun because there are so many layers of birds in the sky.

It's a powerful memory. But it's not a memory of the young. Or the middle-aged. It's a memory of only the oldest of the oldest remaining in the basin.

And without that memory ...

“I worry that when people are looking out there now, [they think] this is good,” Cole says.

Because when the birds are migrating through the national wildlife refuges it is impressive.

“But if they knew there was an opportunity to see many more birds, would it matter to them? Don't know. Maybe it wouldn't. Maybe seeing just a few is enough.”

## PART 3

# How Farming Inside Wildlife Refuges Is Transforming Klamath Basin Agriculture

**R**yan Hartman is driving from field to field in the Klamath Basin, giving what amounts to a masterclass on how to run logistics for 3,000 acres of farmland.

He troubleshoots equipment at one spot, sets planting depth drills on another a mile away, and farther on, shows a few of his 12 employees where to install an irrigation pipe.

“It's a pretty good job to have. You get to drive around in this every day ... it's pretty nice scenery,” he says of the big blue sky, the low brown mountains, the marshes and wide open fields outside his truck window.

Hartman has been farming for about eight years on land he leases inside the Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges. He grows grain, alfalfa and potatoes.

Hartman pulls off onto a chocolate dirt road into a giant field. A low dike keeps water from a nearby lake off this farmland.

“These are yellows,” he says, pointing to one part of the potato field. “And from that way up are chippers—a variety for Frito Lay.”

A century ago, this land was under a massive lake that supported migratory birds. Now it supports potatoes and the people who grow them.

Hartman is one of them. But he's also part of a new generation of farmers who are making agriculture more compatible with wildlife. They're adopting irrigation methods that provide habitat for waterfowl, help keep chemicals out of the wildlife refuges, and give growers a premium price for their crops. And they're helping push the entire Klamath Basin toward a more sustainable agricultural system.

### Refuges Are For Farmers

If you drink organic Northwest beer, there's a decent chance you've tasted barley from the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges.

Grain production on refuges is relatively common across the country, but the Klamath refuges are the only ones that also allow for row crops like potatoes, onions and horseradish.

These row crops are grown on Tule Lake refuge and no other because it is enshrined in federal law—1964 legislation called the Kuchel Act (pronounced Key-cull). *The Kuchel Act* was a compromise bill that stopped refuge land from being stripped away for homesteading, something that had slowly been happening since the land was set aside at the beginning of the 20th century. In return, the farming of grain and row crops was allowed to continue, as long as it supported “proper waterfowl management.”

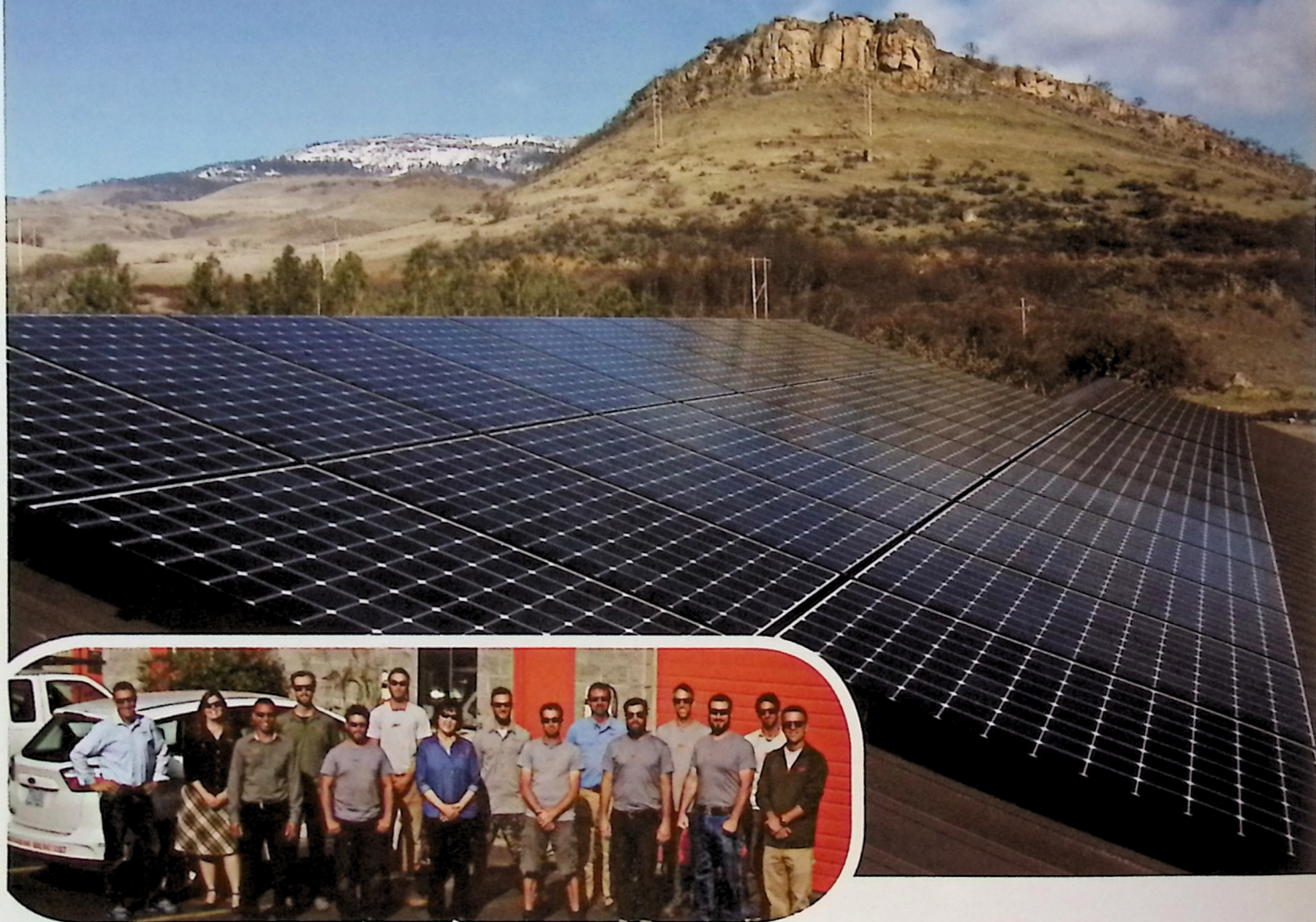


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The interpretation of this provision of the law has since been the subject of debate and litigation in the basin.

Currently about 40 percent, or 37,000 acres, of land on Lower Klamath and Tule Lake refuges are farmed. Around 10 percent of that land is in row crops.

The land is broken down into two separate programs; one involves farming on what are called co-op lands and the other affects growers on so-called lease lands.

The co-op farming is directly designed to provide food for waterfowl. No money exchanges hands. These growers can farm the land for free as long as they agree to leave at least a quarter of that grain standing at the end of the season.

"The co-op fields we have full control over," says Greg Austin, manager of the Klamath Refuges. The refuges award co-op contracts based on which farmer offers the best deal.

"Annually what that best plan looks like changes based on what conditions are like," says refuge biologist John Vradenburg. "What's the refuge going to be most lacking in that year?"

Sometimes the refuge wants offers that will leave more grain standing. Sometimes it's waterfowl habitat that gets prioritized. Sometimes other factors play into the decision.

Lease-land farming, by contrast, is more of an economic venture. It's managed by the Bureau of Reclamation. Farmers bid on specific fields for five-year leases. Potatoes and onions grow here, but most of the land is in grain production. Farmers don't have to leave any behind for birds.

## Laboratories

All this has turned the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuges into giant laboratories. They test ideas—both for the birds and for the farmers.

One of the most consequential experiments has involved crop irrigation on refuge land—a method that farmers call "flood fallow" and that the refuges have officially labeled as "walking wetlands." It's the program that Hartman is taking part in.

The aim is to improve the way agriculture supports habitat for waterfowl. The wildlife refuges have high-priority water rights. But their ability to channel water into wetlands is limited.

The refuges don't have a formal agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to deliver that water. And Endangered Species Act protections for imperiled fish in the Klamath Basin have kept water in streams that might otherwise reach the refuges.

Even if those things changed, the highest-priority water rights owned by the refuges are earmarked for crop irrigation, not wildlife.

So wildlife managers figured out that if they could convince farmers to use their agricultural water to periodically flood their fields for extended periods of time, they could provide more habitat for waterfowl.

"We have all these agricultural parcels spread throughout the refuge and they're helping us bring the wetland conditions that have been lost," Vradenburg says.

## The Benefit For Farmers?

Fourth-generation Klamath Basin farmer Mark Staunton is among those who now flood their fields. When those fields are drained and put back into production, a year's worth of bird poop and decomposing wetland plants cause crop fertility to skyrocket.



Farmer Ryan Hartman grows organic and conventional potatoes on the Tule Lake refuge.

"We're all the sudden back to production that maybe my great-grandpa would have seen when he first started farming on the lake," Staunton says.

Staunton's great-grandfather was one of the first homesteaders in the area. His uncle was the first to work with the wildlife refuges on field flooding about 15 years back.

Not only are farmers finding that the standing water makes the land more fertile, they're also discovering that it kills off weeds.

Since this practice of flooding fields was first put to use, the program has taken off, triggering a transformation of farming on the refuge.

## Transformation

There's another trend that's changing agricultural practices in the Klamath Basin's wildlife refuges: rising consumer demand for organic produce and grains.

The market has seen double-digit growth since the early 2000s and is currently valued at nearly \$40 billion in the United States alone.

In the Klamath Basin, flood-fallow irrigation on the refuges has paved the way. On fields that are flooded for three growing seasons, farmers can immediately have their crops certified as organic—netting them higher prices than they'd get for conventionally grown crops.

In addition, when the Bureau of Reclamation drains fields that had been flooded, it can then offer them to farmers for organic production.

"We believe we're getting higher and increase bids on the lots that are available for organic," says Mike Green, manager of the lease land program for the Bureau of Reclamation.

Rob Wilson at the University of California extension office in Tulelake says as growers are seeing success using this system, other farmers off-refuge are jumping on board.

"We've seen a substantial increase in organic production. And we're talking thousands of acres of wheat and small grains, barley, potatoes and many of the forages that are being grown," Wilson says. "It's becoming a substantial part of farming in the Klamath Basin."

Staunton is part of that trend.

"About five years ago our farm was less than 15 percent organic to conventional, and now we're about 50-50 if not a little bit more," he says.

Continued on page 15



This year, for the first time, a bumblebee was listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

## Will The Franklin's Bumblebee Ever Be Seen Again?

If an octogenarian entomologist could be a superhero, Robbin Thorp might be a good candidate.

He moves slowly along the Pacific Crest Trail, eyes scanning below a floppy field hat. In his hand, a hero's gadget—what appears to be a ray gun, straight out of the comics.

But this gun sucks instead of shoots.

Thorp spots a female worker bee with big pollen loads on her back legs, aims the gun and pulls the trigger. In a whirl, the bee is sucked up into the gun's clear plastic barrel.

"They don't like to be imprisoned for a while, but other than that it doesn't hurt them," he says.

Then Thorp uses the gun's other feature, a magnifying lens, to identify the bumblebee trapped inside the chamber. It's not *Bombus franklini*, the bumblebee Thorp has traveled to Mount Ashland to look for; the bumblebee he was the last person on the planet to see alive.

So he lets her go.

### Bee-dle In A Haystack

Some creatures are so small and difficult to track that it's hard to tell if they've gone extinct. That's the case for *Bombus franklini*, or Franklin's bumblebee. It once ranged from Roseburg, Oregon, south to Mount Shasta in California. But no one has seen it since Thorp caught one in this Mount Ashland meadow in 2006.

"Aug. 9, just down the [Pacific Crest] Trail. On the other side of the seep down there," Thorp recalls. "That got my heart rate going."

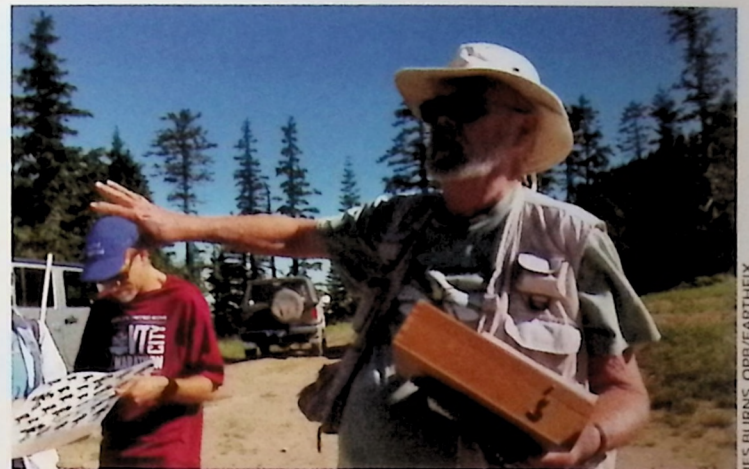
The retired University of California, Davis entomologist isn't giving up on the bee. He still makes an annual pilgrimage to Mount Ashland in hopes the Franklin's will make an appearance once again.

For this mission though, even a superhero like Robbin Thorp needs sidekicks. He has about 30 from different federal agencies and nonprofits. They're waiting for their marching orders, butterfly nets in hand, on national forest land near the Oregon-California border. The wildflowers that surround them are putting on a show.

Jeff Dillon with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service organized the congregation — or "cape" if you will — of sidekicks.

"Hopefully this will be the year we find the Franklin's," Dillon says. "If you think you have captured one of those, please get it back to Dr. Thorp right here. He's our authority on the species."

Thorp has been surveying for the bee for two decades. He saw the population of Franklin's and another related bee, the western bumblebee, dropping in the early 2000s.



Robbin Thorp explains why he believes the Franklin's bumblebee has disappeared for so long.

"I already knew [the Franklin's] had declined by the time I saw that [last] one. It had gone missing for several years before then," Thorp says.

It's not just the Franklin's bumblebee population that's crashed. Worldwide, bees are facing significant challenges due to habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change.

This year, for the first time, a bumblebee was listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The rusty patched bumblebee was once found across the eastern United States and upper Midwest, but the population has dropped 87 percent in the last 20 years.

The Franklin's bumblebee is currently "under review" to determine whether an ESA listing is warranted.

Thorp hypothesizes that disease caused the disappearance of the Franklin's and western bumblebees in this region.

"Any species that disappears is always a big deal, to me anyway. And it's of concern when one or more start declining. And in this case, there's a couple of very closely related bumblebees that have declined in the West," he says.

This is also of concern because bumblebees are important pollinators. They work flowers differently than honeybees. It's a specialized way that's called buzz pollination.

"They go up to the flower. They grasp it. And then they buzz. And the certain frequency, usually the note of C, and the pollen comes out like a salt shaker. And then the bee is coated in the pollen and it pollinates that flower," says Kristi Mergenthaler with the Siskiyou chapter of the Native Plant Society.

About 8 percent of the world's flowers are buzz pollinated, including Northwest agricultural mainstays like blueberries, cranberries and potatoes.



## On A Mission

The hopeful bumblebee hunters disperse into the meadows, swiping at purple mint flowers with nets.

"You can actually sit and watch and have [the bumblebees] come to you, but I usually go to them," says Brendan White with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

White has been helping with these surveys for a while. He demonstrates to a few new sidekicks a sting-avoiding technique for transferring bumblebees from net to vial for identification.

"Surveying for rare bumblebees [is] a little bit difficult because they're spread out over a large area. You can miss it by 10 feet. You could miss it by 10 days," he says.

To make it even more difficult, differences between species are often subtle.

"With these bees, it can be where a stripe is, or is there an extra little divot somewhere," says volunteer Alison Center, president of the Oregon chapter of the North American Butterfly Association.

This is the peak of bumblebee season in these meadows and bees are everywhere. Every close examination brings hope the lost bee is back.



The last Franklin's bumblebee was found by Robbin Thorp in 2006.

Last year, the bumblebee hunters saw two western bumblebees—an exciting find. The bee is considered "critically imperiled" in the Pacific Northwest and its population is estimated to have declined more than 70 percent in the past two decades. It started to decline on Mount Ashland around the same time as the Franklin's.

"Looks like the western is perhaps in recovery, and it gives me some hope that maybe Franklin's is also. And it's just out there under the radar," Thorp says.

And that's the way the quest of this superhero goes: One day you find a Franklin's bumblebee, but most days, this one included, you don't.



Jes Burns is the Southern Oregon reporter for Earthfix, a collaboration of public media organizations in the Pacific Northwest that creates original journalism which helps citizens examine how environmental issues unfolding in their own backyards intersect with national issues. Earthfix partners include: Oregon Public Broadcasting, Idaho Public Television, KCTS9 Seattle, KUOW Puget Sound Public Radio, Northwest Public Radio and Television, Jefferson Public Radio and KLCC.

## The Klamath Basin

Continued from page 13

About half of the farmland on the Klamath refuges is now either organic or flooded as a wetland. And overall fewer chemicals are being put on ground, which is better for the birds.

### Best Of An Awful Situation

Bob Hunter of the environmental group WaterWatch is not convinced.

"Walking wetland system certainly has provided the refuge manager with a tool to make an awful situation a little better than it is," Hunter says.

It will take far more than a change in the way crops are irrigated to satisfy Hunter and other critics of farming on wildlife refuges.

"Tule Lake Refuge is really two polluted farm ponds and commercial farming," Hunter says.

WaterWatch is suing the refuge for not phasing out farming in its latest conservation plan. The suit says in examining the potential continued compatibility of agriculture on the refuges, managers only considered its effect on a small subset of waterfowl—the same waterfowl that are known to use agriculture for forage and habitat.

Hunter recommends a springtime drive through the refuge to dispel any notion that it's a park for wildlife.

"They have silhouettes of painted bald eagles out there to act as scarecrows to keep migrating geese off the fields," he says. "So here you have a national wildlife refuge that is excluding birds so you won't adversely impact farming."

The refuge is attempting to rein in this practice in its new conservation plan. That's drawn the ire of farmers. Some of them are suing over the conservation plan, saying there are changes to agriculture on the refuges that violate federal laws.

Again and again the situation at the Klamath refuges comes back to water.

Ron Larson is a retired biologist who worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Klamath Basin for 20 years.

"Personally, I think it's unfortunate that there's farming on the refuge. But on the other hand, the fact that there is farming on the refuge does provide a guaranteed water supply, at least for Tule Lake" refuge, Larson says. "So it's kind of a Catch-22 situation, but it is unfortunate."

Environmental groups say the refuges' managers could do far more than encourage growers to irrigate crops in ways that benefit wildlife. Instead, they should take steps to ensure the refuges' water rights are enforced to put more water directly into natural waterfowl habitat.

This is possible under Oregon water law. But the Oregon Water Resources Department says no changes can happen until after all water rights in the Klamath Basin have been certified. This adjudication process likely won't be finalized for at least 10 years.

Hunter sees promise in changing the purpose of the refuges' water rights to benefit wildlife. If the refuges truly care about the birds they're supposed to be protecting, he says, the next great experiment will be phasing out farming altogether.





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# Among The Beargrass People

I'm big into names. As a professional ornithologist and a lifelong naturalist, I've spent years learning the names of things. That drab little yellow-green bird skulking in the bushes? It's an Orange-crowned Warbler, *Oreothlypis celata*. What about the bushes? They're snowberry, *Symphoricarpos albus*. And the bee buzzing among their flowers? Why, it's a yellow-faced bumble bee, *Bombus vosnesenskii* (say that one five times fast!).

My hiking buddies often grow impatient at this identifying habit of mine, and some even have a principled objection. Obsessing about names, they say, is a distraction from the pure appreciation of nature, preventing people from simply *seeing*. Not surprisingly, I disagree. The close attention to details needed to identify and name plants and animals deepens my appreciation, alerts me to the differences that reveal creatures' adaptations to the world.

I understand the point, though. Figuring out what something is, that's only the beginning of understanding. If that becomes an end in itself—as for some bird-listers, I'm sorry to say—then naming is a dead end. The problem, I've come to believe, is not that we give too many names, but that we don't give enough.

In Buddhism, the creatures with whom we share the world are termed sentient beings. In some Native American traditions, those beings are spoken of as people—salmon are the salmon people, bears are the bear people. These are both ways of signifying that we humans are just another part of the world, not above it.

That's not how most of us think. We look down on our fellow species. We don't consider them our equals, with equal claims to the good things of life—or to life at all. And we certainly don't give them attention as individuals. After all, who can tell one deer, one crow, from another?

Well, *they* can. Meticulous field studies have proved beyond doubt that birds and mammals (at least) have amazing powers of individual recognition. Elephants remember each other even after years of separation. A seabird flying into a colony of thousands can unerringly locate her chick, even if it has wandered away from the nest. As a graduate student, I studied a color-banded population of birds, which allowed me to document their individual behaviors. In this species, called the cock-of-the-rock, the males spend all their time displaying to attract females. Some males, I found, were skillful lovers. Others...not so much. Females remembered those males, returning to them year after year, even if they changed their display sites.

It is simply lazy to think of animals as interchangeable units, part of a faceless horde. They are individuals, each with his or her own histories, strengths, and weaknesses. Not like us, but just like us.



PHOTO: PEPPER TRAIL

"An unforgettable spectacle." The amazing display of bear grass (the lily, *Xerophyllum tenax*) on the Siskiyou Crest's Red Mountain.

All these thoughts went through my mind one day this summer as I spent an afternoon surrounded by the tall white blooms of flowering beargrass. It's particularly challenging to honor plants as fellow sentient beings, to greet them as a people, to see them as individuals. And yet, they are. If all members of a plant species were the same, they would quickly die out. Individual variation is the stuff of survival, the fuel for evolution. But looking over a hillside of California poppies or a field of goldenrod, it's easy to see nothing but the colorful mass.

That's not the case with beargrass. In flower, these extraordinary lilies, *Xerophyllum tenax*, are utterly, undeniably individual. Beargrass occurs in scattered local populations, and each population displays an exuberant mass blooming at unpredictable intervals, typically years apart. This was such a year for the population in the open conifer forest of the Siskiyou crest, where I spent my time with them.

In the multitude of flowers, each stood a bit apart from its fellows, distinct. They have much in common, of course: each plant has a dense basal cluster of tough, wiry leaves (prized for basketry), and each flowering head is a tall spike covered with delicate white blossoms. But some flowers are narrow wands, others bulbous as a blimp, others round and compact as a cupcake. Some spikes are straight; others curve; and some bend beneath the weight of their heavy heads. Each one deserves a name.

I don't know those names: I don't speak their language. But moving from flower to flower, taking photograph after photograph, I could see how each one exhibits its own perfection. Each is the product of an evolutionary journey at least as long as my own, each has grace I will never attain. True, a beargrass plant can't read, or write, or think abstract thoughts. Well, I can't turn sunlight into food or re-sprout after wildfire. Let's not quibble over who is the more miraculous.

Absorbed in these reflections, I barely noticed the passage of time. Suddenly, it was evening. I said goodbye to the beargrass people and drove down from the mountains, naming names as I went. Good night, dark-eyed junco. Sleep well, leopard lily. See you tomorrow, oak people, raven people, deer people. I'm looking forward to getting to know you better.



Pepper Trail is an ornithologist, essayist, and poet living in Ashland, Oregon.





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The holy grail of “big data” is creating intelligent analysis tools that can process vast quantities of disparate data and transform it into useful information.

# The Big Deal About “Big Data”

**W**e create more data every day than the amount of data created from the dawn of civilization up until around 2003. Think about that for a moment, try to really comprehend that and you’ll realize that it is incomprehensible. Every text message, every email, every picture upload to Facebook, every tweet, every YouTube video, every search on Google, every clinical diagnosis entered into a database, every airline ticket purchase, every financial transaction—the list goes on and on and on until every 24 hours a massive quantity of data is created. When it comes to data, size matters. This is “big data” and it is the latest big thing in technology.

There is no precise definition of “big data”. Google it, and the top hit for the phrase is Wikipedia: “Big data is a collection of data sets so large and complex that it becomes difficult to process using on-hand database management tools or traditional data processing applications.”

According to Viktor Mayer-Schonberger and Kenneth Cukler in their recent book *Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work, and Think*, “There is no rigorous definition of big data. Initially the idea was that the volume of information had grown so large that the quantity being examined no longer fit in the memory computers use for processing, so engineers had to revamp the tools they used for analyzing it all.”

Or to put it another way, the amount of data we were creating had outstripped our ability to usefully analyze that data. The ability to analyze data is the key to transforming that data into information. Without analysis, data is just a collection of bits without context and meaning.

The word “data” comes from the Latin *datum*, “that which is given”. In terms of computers, “that which is given” is commonly referred to as “data entry” or “data collection”. This can range from manual entry of data by a human being to the collection of data by remote sensing systems such as satellites taking pictures and transmitting them back to Earth to be collected in a database. A “database” is simply a collection of data, of “that which is given”.

A database has structure in the form of fields, records, and files. A field is a single piece of data. When you fill out an online form, you enter data into fields such as “Last Name”, “First Name”, etc. One complete set of fields is a “record” and a collection of records is a “file”. You and I could fill out the same online form, providing data in the same fields, however, we each become a unique record in the collection of records stored in a file on a computer somewhere.

And none of that data has any real value without analysis. This is the true power of databases, to extract and analyze the data that has been collected within it. This is how data is trans-

formed into information that can be used to make decisions (and hopefully good ones).

So let’s return to this concept of humanity collectively creating more data *every single day* than the amount of data that was created since the dawn of civilization up until 2003. Daily, the “that which is given” is mind-boggling tremendous and has outstripped our ability to transform the vast majority of it into information, or “that which is useful”.

The holy grail of “big data” is creating intelligent analysis tools that can process vast quantities of disparate data and transform it into useful information. Who’s interested in big data? Well, pretty much everyone in every field from science, to healthcare, to retail, to government.

“Big data refers to things one can do at a large scale that cannot be done at a smaller one, to extract new insights or create new forms of value, in ways that change markets, organizations, the relationship between citizens and governments, and more,” writes Mayer-Schonberger and Cukler in *Big Data*.

A great example of big data that comes from the sciences is the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world’s largest and highest-energy particle accelerator. To grossly oversimplify the LHC, atomic particles are accelerated in an underground tunnel that is 17 miles in circumference. These particles then collide with other particles and high-tech sensors are used to collect data about these collisions. While the particles are atomic, the data generated from their collision is astronomic.


Scientists estimate that LHC experiments churn out about 25 petabytes of data every year. One petabyte (PB) is equal to 1,024 terabytes (TB). A higher-end modern desktop computer will have a 1TB drive. So the data generated from collisions in the LHC would completely fill the hard-drives of 25,600 computers. This is why the builders of the LHC, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), also built the LHC Computing Grid, which is comprised of more than 170 computing facilities across 36 countries, to store and process all this data. This is big data.

Why is it important? Well, in a nutshell, scientists are attempting to recreate the conditions present at the theoretical beginning of the universe to help answer some of the unresolved questions in particle physics that will explain how all of this came to be. Without big data, these questions would remain unanswerable. And once we’ve answered the “how” then maybe that information will help us to definitively answer the “why”.



Scott Dewing is a technologist, teacher, and writer. He lives with his family on a low-tech farm in the State of Jefferson.



A woman with long hair, wearing a light-colored jacket and a long skirt, stands on a sandy beach looking out at a large, prominent rock formation (Haystack Rock) in the ocean. The scene is misty or foggy, with the ocean reflecting the light. The overall tone is serene and contemplative.

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GEOFFREY RILEY

# When Politicians Use Journalists As Piñatas

**W**atching Jim Acosta from CNN at work is both fascinating and grueling. As the White House correspondent for his network, his job is to lob questions about matters facing the country at both White House representatives and the president himself. And it can't be easy to stand there and take the abuse when President Donald Trump declares "you are fake news" in response to a question. To Acosta's credit, he stands his ground and continues to ask his questions, knowing the responses may be incomplete at best and hostile at worst.

It probably helps to know that he is not the first reporter to take such abuse, and he certainly will not be the last. There is a rich history of political figures belittling and ridiculing members of the news media; it can be productive in stoking the admiration and even votes of the political figure's supporters. And there's one key attribute that makes it attractive to the point of being nearly irresistible: the other side can't fight back.

Or shouldn't, anyway. Just about every reporter working today can remember some hard-bitten newsroom veteran giving one of the cardinal rules of the journalism business: "you're not the story." So when the person being questioned by a reporter resorts to responses ranging from "you'd better get your facts straight" to "why do you hate America?" ...all the reporter can do is politely continue to ask the question until it is answered.

I would bet that every working journalist has a private, unwritten list of things they'd like to say in response to jerky behavior from a politician, but the unwritten also goes unsaid. Can you imagine what would happen if reporters were free to fight back? The opinion of journalism as an institution is already low enough in this country (somewhere above Congress, but below banks [Gallup 2017]). Getting into screaming matches with people who might even deserve some screaming can only damage the public view of journalism further.

And politicians and their handlers know it. They get to swing freely at the people they see as their tormentors, knowing those people are bound by a code of ethics that prevents their swinging back. The master of the art form is Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House and one-time presidential candidate. His campaign for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012 rose on the strength of his performance in several debates, in which Gingrich often railed against either the questions or the questioners, to the delight of supporters in the audience and

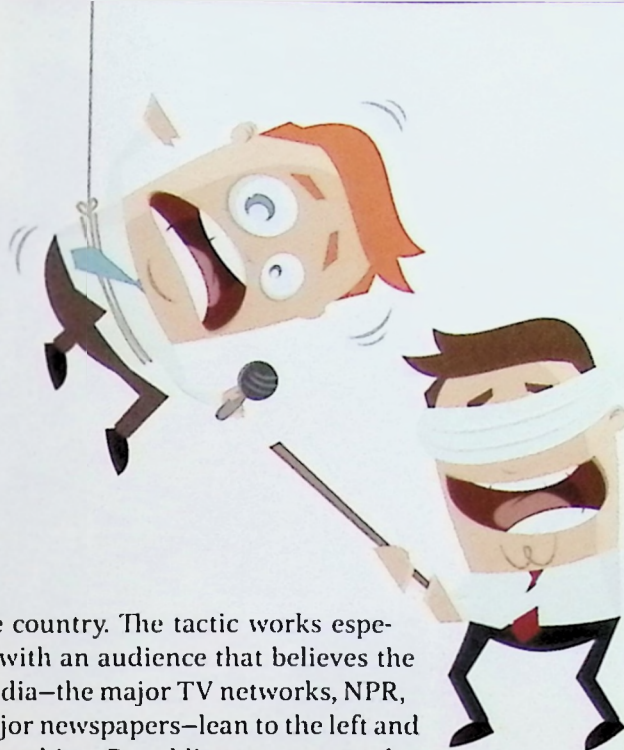
The conduct of our government needs scrutiny (and sunlight) to function in the best interests of the American people.

around the country. The tactic works especially well with an audience that believes the old-line media—the major TV networks, NPR, and the major newspapers—lean to the left and oppose everything Republicans want to do. Exploiting that feeling made Fox News Channel a major power in the country.

Former vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin, when she makes news at all anymore, often revives her time-tested phrase "lamestream media" to ridicule the mainstream media. She learned a long time ago that it is far easier to take offense to a question than to answer it fully and completely. Watch how the designated spokespeople for the White House respond to some questions. Listen to the question, argue with the premise, question the intentions of the reporter, and then give an incomplete answer.

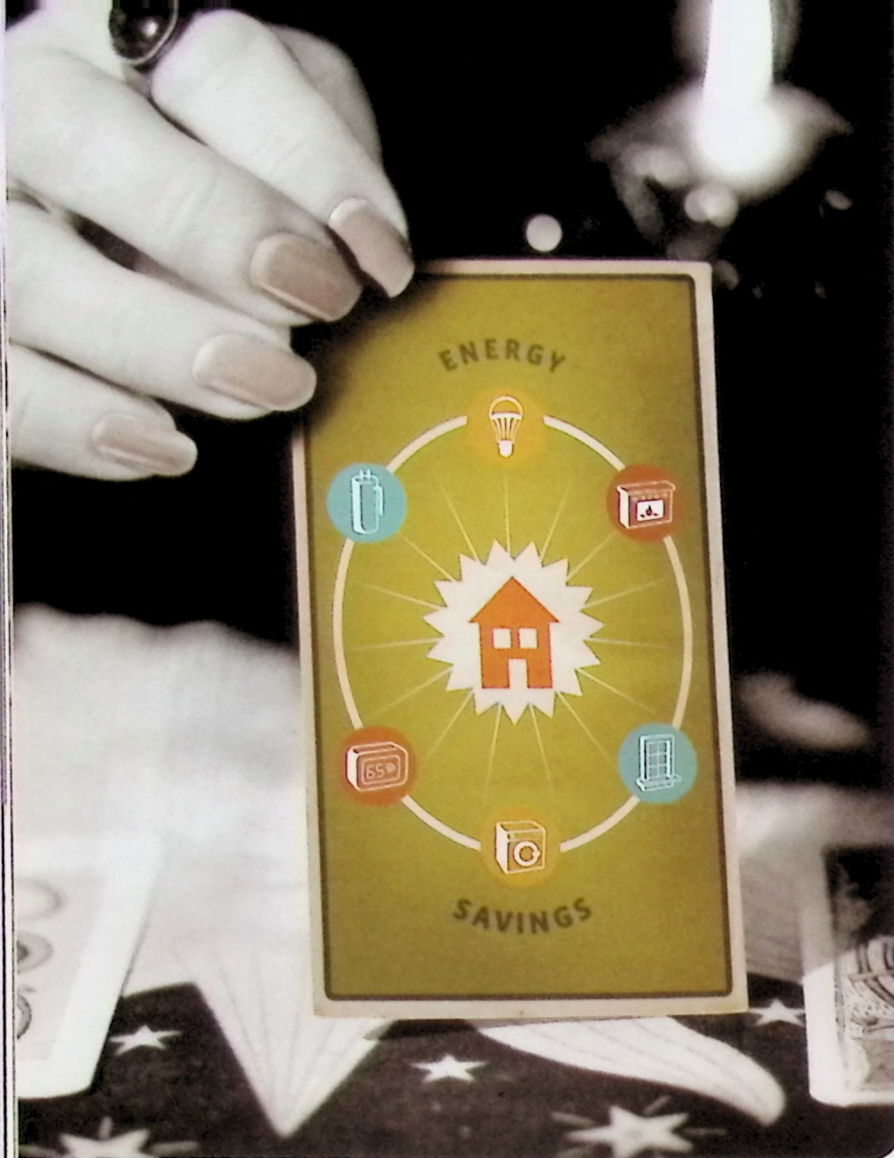
That brings us back to the president himself, who slings the term "fake news" with impunity. Which is the rough equivalent of putting fingers in each ear and singing "la la la la" to block other sounds. The people asking the questions are only human, just trying to do their jobs at collecting information. They may seem rude to people who like and support the people being questioned, but the conduct of our government needs scrutiny (and sunlight) to function in the best interests of the American people. So the questions will continue. And given the current state of political discourse in America, politicians will likely continue to treat the questioners like piñatas as well.

So have some compassion for Jim Acosta and his colleagues in the White House media corps. They'll continue to ask the questions and be abused for it, and we'll never get to hear what they might say if they were allowed to respond in kind.



Geoffrey Riley began practicing journalism in the State of Jefferson nearly three decades ago, as a reporter and anchor for a Medford TV station. It was about the same time that he began listening to Jefferson Public Radio, and thought he might one day work there. He was right.





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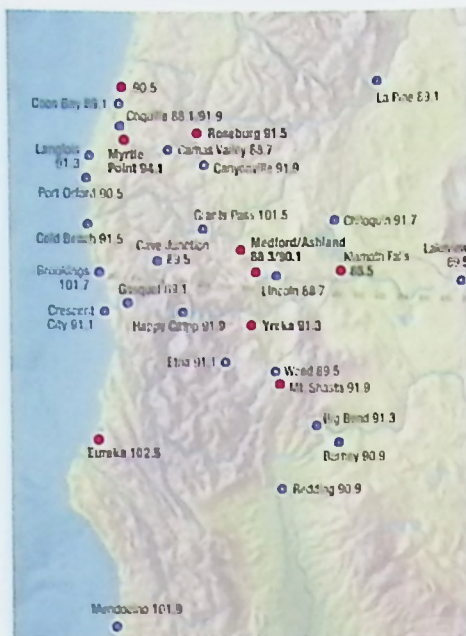


BearCreekSalmonFestival.net





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- **FM Transmitters** provide extended regional service. (KSOR, 90.1 FM is JPR's strongest transmitter and provides coverage throughout the Rogue Valley.)
- **FM Translators** provide low-powered local service.

## Monday through Friday

- 5:00am Morning Edition
- 7:00am First Concert
- 12:00pm Siskiyou Music Hall
- 4:00pm All Things Considered
- 7:00pm Exploring Music
- 8:00pm State Farm Music Hall

## Saturday

- 5:00am Weekend Edition
- 8:00am First Concert
- 10:00am Opera
- 2:00pm Played in Oregon
- 3:00pm The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

- 4:00pm All Things Considered
- 5:00pm New York Philharmonic
- 7:00pm State Farm Music Hall

## Sunday

- 5:00am Weekend Edition
- 9:00am Millennium of Music
- 10:00am Sunday Baroque
- 12:00pm Siskiyou Music Hall
- 2:00pm Performance Today Weekend
- 4:00pm All Things Considered
- 5:00pm Chicago Symphony Orchestra
- 7:00pm Carnegie Hall Live
- 8:00pm State Farm Music Hall

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Port Orford 90.5 FM  
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## San Francisco Opera

Sept 2 – *La Gioconda* by Amilcare Ponchielli  
Sept 9 – *Aida* by Giuseppe Verdi  
Sept 16 – *Madama Butterfly* by Giacomo Puccini  
Sept 23 – *Andrea Chénier* by Umberto Giordano  
Sept 30 – *Dream of the Red Chamber* by Bright Sheng  
Oct 7 – *Don Pasquale* by Gaetano Donizetti  
Oct 14 – *Arabella* by Richard Strauss

## American Opera Series

Oct 21 – *Falstaff* by Giuseppe Verdi (Chicago Symphony Orchestra)  
Oct 28 – *Lucrezia Borgia* by Gaetano Donizetti (Caramoor Opera)



San Francisco Opera's production of *Madama Butterfly*.



# Rhythm & News Service



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## Monday through Friday

- 5:00am Morning Edition
- 9:00am Open Air
- 3:00pm Q
- 4:00pm All Things Considered
- 6:00pm World Café
- 8:00pm Undercurrents
- (Modulation Fridays 8–10pm)
- 3:00am World Café

## Saturday

- 5:00am Weekend Edition
- 9:00am Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!
- 10:00am Ask Me Another
- 11:00am Radiolab
- 12:00pm E-Town
- 1:00pm Mountain Stage
- 3:00pm A Prairie Home Companion
- 5:00pm All Things Considered

- 6:00pm American Rhythm
- 8:00pm Q the Music / 99% Invisible
- 9:00pm The Retro Lounge
- 10:00pm Late Night Blues
- 12:00am Undercurrents

## Sunday

- 5:00am Weekend Edition
- 9:00am TED Radio Hour
- 10:00am This American Life
- 11:00am The Moth Radio Hour
- 12:00pm Jazz Sunday
- 2:00pm American Routes
- 4:00pm Sound Opinions
- 5:00pm All Things Considered
- 6:00pm The Folk Show
- 9:00pm A Prairie Home Companion
- 11:00pm Mountain Stage
- 1:00am Undercurrents

## Stations

KSMF 89.1 FM  
ASHLAND

KSBA 88.5 FM  
COOS BAY

KSKF 90.9 FM  
KLAMATH FALLS

KNCA 89.7 FM  
BURNLEY/REDDING

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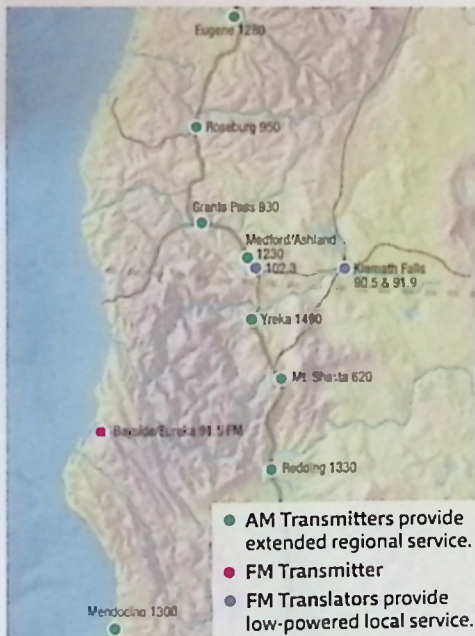
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- FM Translators provide low-powered local service.

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- 5:00am BBC World Service
- 7:00am 1A
- 8:00am The Jefferson Exchange
- 10:00am The Takeaway
- 11:00am Here & Now
- 1:00pm BBC News Hour
- 2:00pm To the Point
- 3:00pm Fresh Air
- 4:00pm PRI's The World
- 5:00pm On Point
- 7:00pm Fresh Air (repeat)
- 8:00pm The Jefferson Exchange
- (repeat of 8am broadcast)
- 10:00pm BBC World Service

## Saturday

- 5:00am BBC World Service
- 7:00am WorldLink
- 8:00am Day 6
- 9:00am Freakonomics Radio
- 10:00am Planet Money
- 11:00am TED
- 12:00pm Living on Earth
- 1:00pm Science Friday
- 3:00pm To the Best of Our Knowledge
- 5:00pm West Coast Live
- 6:00pm Selected Shorts
- 7:00pm BBC World Service

## Sunday

- 5:00am BBC World Service
- 7:00am Inside Europe
- 8:00am On The Media
- 9:00am Marketplace Weekend
- 10:00am Reveal
- 11:00am This American Life
- 12:00pm TED Radio Hour
- 1:00pm Political Junkie
- 2:00pm Fresh Air Weekend
- 3:00pm Milk Street Radio
- 4:00pm Travel with Rick Steves
- 5:00pm To the Best of Our Knowledge
- 7:00pm BBC World Service

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TALENT

KAGI AM 930  
GRANTS PASS

KTBR AM 950  
ROSEBURG

KRVM AM 1280  
EUGENE

KSYC AM 1490  
YREKA

KMJC AM 620  
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I had allowed my reading of the text to obscure what I might expect on the stage.

## Opening Night, Open Air

There is a special pleasure in being in the audience for the opening of the Elizabethan Theatre at OSF. For many people, open air Shakespeare is the very heart of the Festival, tapping into its historical roots. For others, it is an opportunity to dress up, to catch the first Green Show, to see and to be seen!

This particular season of plays under stars began with *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, directed by Dawn Monique Williams, a production which was a complete delight, a riot of color, of energy and of joy. This was the only Shakespeare production played outdoors this year, and although the costumes were based upon those of Shakespeare's own day, and the set and lighting were relatively simple (no video projections), it would not be true to claim that it was entirely 'traditional' in style.

Firstly, it had modern songs, lots of songs, and dancing too: the music was drawn from popular songs of the 1980s, and was artfully woven into the themes of the plot (as well as furnishing opportunities for stand-out big numbers to open and close each half of the play). For me, one of the delights of the opening night was listening to the younger members of the audience as they came out of the theatre arguing about what songs they had heard ("There was definitely Cyndi Lauper!"—I think there was, and probably Blondie, and Alice Cooper, and certainly Talking Heads). OSF might consider running an online competition to spot all the songs and their original artists? There is no doubt that this production will help to draw in that younger audience for Shakespeare which the Festival needs to cultivate, or at least those willing to forget that these artists are in their 70s!

Secondly, it had a female Falstaff, the magnificent K T Vogt, whose costumes all came complete with a ludicrous, detachable codpieces—proving that the staff was not the only thing about Falstaff which was false. This gender reversal meant, among other things, that when Sir John was disguised as the Old Woman of Brentford, we saw a woman playing a man, dressed as a woman...turning the conventions of Elizabethan theatre on their heads. This was a *tour de force* performance, well deserving of the resounding applause from the audience at the end. Indeed, one distinctive feature of this production was that the audience was on its feet even before the show had ended!

To be honest, this is not a play I have ever warmed to when I have read it. The plotting had seemed to me overcomplicated and hard to follow (especially the potential law suits near the beginning of the play), and the devices of the wives against Falstaff potentially cruel. I think I was foolish enough to have expressed those views to this present director in a conversation last year: silly me! I was so concerned with issues of social class, with the



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Mistress Ford and Mistress Page (Amy Newman and Vilma Silva, left and right) are less than thrilled about the overtures Falstaff (K. T. Vogt, center) is making toward them.

tensions between the aristocratic Falstaff and Fenton, the middle class Pages and Fords and the lower, servant class, that I lost sight of what is at the heart of the play. I had allowed my reading of the text to obscure what I might expect on the stage.

In watching this innovative production, I realized that the play is as much a celebration of clever women as it is a discussion about class. At its heart are the victorious women (Vilma Silva and Amy Newman on great form as the merry wives)



## Theatre

Continued from page 27

whose plots succeed, and the stupid, defeated men whose plots fail. In the case of Falstaff, that defeat does indeed include a form of emasculation; however, since we know that the actor is really female, it is a symbolic emasculation, and the potential for cruelty reduced to a vanishing point. Congratulations to Dawn Monique Williams for the clarity of her vision of this play and for bringing that vision to theatrical reality to educate, among others, this silly man.

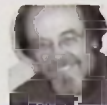
There was, however, one respect in which this production did follow original practice: it exploited the possibility that the audience was familiar with the company members and their roles in other productions. In this case, the actors who played the young lovers trying to overcome obstacles to their romance (Jamie Ann Romero and William DeMeritt), had played the parallel roles of Viola and Will in *Shakespeare in Love*. That the lovers achieved their objective demonstrated that even a clever woman like Mistress Page could be outwitted if she had an even cleverer daughter.

It was a pleasure to watch Cristofer Jean (Slender) and Jeremy Peter Johnson (Caius) as the unsuccessful suitors for Anne Page, and to see Rex Young as absurdly jealous Ford/Brook. So many silly men...I will never again be able to hear "Psycho Killer" without thinking of them. There were times when Rex

Young's Ford came close to assuming all the manic qualities and mannerisms of John Cleese's Basil Fawlty—or indeed of John Cleese in just about any role.

And to that list of silly men should be added another man who was played by a woman: Sir Hugh Evans (Sara Bruner), engaging in a pointless and misguided altercation with Caius. Her posturing on the upper level in preparation for the duel/boxing match (!?) with Caius was as good a piece of upstaging as I have ever seen.

Overall, there was such richness and vitality in this production, so much going on on so many levels (literally and metaphorically) that audiences may well have to see the show more than once, and not just to identify the songs. Clever OSF!



Geoff Ridden has taught in universities in Africa, Europe and North America. Since moving to Ashland in 2008, he has become a familiar figure on radio, in the theatre, in the lecture hall and on the concert stage. He is artistic director of the Classic Readings Theatre Company and has a particular interest in adaptations of the plays of Shakespeare. Email [classicroadings@gmail.com](mailto:classicroadings@gmail.com)

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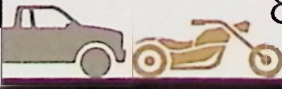
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## The Kids Are Alright

**K**ids making music is not a new concept. Michael Jackson was a child star, so was Justin Timberlake. Prodigies like Sierra Hull and Sarah Jarosz have been making great acoustic music since their teens. John Mayer and Johnny Lang have gone onto respectable careers after getting their starts as teenagers. Often however child artists seem contrived, more a product of clever marketing than an example of great music. Televised music competitions such as *American Idol* are great at finding talented performers, but seem more motivated by sales than creativity. Those aren't mutually exclusive goals, but great music doesn't require commercial success and commercial success doesn't hinge on quality and creativity. Now that the giant record companies aren't the only avenue to recording or commercial success, aspiring artists are able to make their own music, their own way. This has resulted in the last few years in some promising new music coming from people much younger than you would expect.

A few years ago, SOAK (Bridie Watson) paid a visit to JPR's *Live Sessions*. The singer/songwriter from Ireland was 17 and had just released her album *Before We Forgot How To Dream*. It was runner-up for the 2015 Mercury prize. SOAK (her stage name, a mash up of Soul and Folk) is openly gay and at age 14 wrote the song "Sea Creatures" about her openly gay friend who was being bullied. You hear anger and love and compassion in the lyrics. Later, she spoke of that song with great insight "There are so many different aspects of being 14 in that song like, you have that phase of 'Oh my God I want to get out of this town, I hate all of these people' and then the chorus is about people's ignorance and intolerance." If this is how she is writing and critiquing herself as a teenager, I think we have a lot to look forward to in the future.

From this side of the pond, Ogden, Utah to be exact, is a young man named Sammy Brue. He just released his debut record *I Am Nice*. The folk/Americana singer/songwriter has been writing songs for a good portion of his 15 years after being inspired by his father's taste in music, legends like Bob Dylan, Leadbelly and Johnny Cash. By the age 11 he was busking at the Sundance Film Festival and shortly thereafter landed opening spots with John Moreland, Lucinda Williams, Hayes Carll and Justin Townes Earle. Fun fact, in 2014, Brue was one of the models for the cover photo on the Justin Townes Earle album *Single Mothers*. These early connections paid off. His record was produced by Ben Tanner of Alabama Shakes and John Paul White of the Civil Wars. His sound and his writing are something like his Americana influences with perhaps a dose



Bridie Watson

Great music doesn't require commercial success and commercial success doesn't hinge on quality and creativity.

of Brett Dennen and Jack Johnson. Given he is already making legitimate music and is in great company, there is likely quite a bit more to come from this young talent.

Folk and Americana aren't the only genres with young stars making good music. When they were very young, Maya Rae (14) a vocalist and Joey Alexander (11), a pianist, were releasing sophisticated jazz records. At around that age I was playing air guitar to AC/DC and giggling at words like "pianist".

Josiah "Joey" Alexander is from Indonesia and a true child prodigy. He began teaching himself piano at age 6 after listening to his father's old jazz albums. Wynton Marsallis learned about Alexander after watching a YouTube clip of him playing Coltraine, Monk and Chick Corea and invited him to play at Jazz at Lincoln Center. He released his album *My Favorite Things* a year later, at age 11. His technique and sophistication is decades beyond his age. With such an early start, he is going to be headed into something like mid-career work in his 20s. It is hard to imagine where he is going to take this gift.



Josiah Alexander

Jazz vocalist Maya Rae is from Canada. When her CD *Sapphire Birds* first came in I was skeptical expecting her to be more of a novelty than a true talent. That skepticism vanished when I heard her sing the first line of the Carole King classic "I Feel the Earth Move". On *Sapphire Birds*, she plays with standards by Gershwin and pop tunes by Meghan Trainor with the instincts of a veteran. She wrote a couple of the songs from the record, including "So Caught Up," about a very teenage subject, social anxiety from changing schools. In addition to her music, she has an eye for giving back. Proceeds from her CD release went to Covenant House which helps homeless teens. In 2015 she raised \$13,000 to help the victims of the Nepal earthquake. She has a great voice, great vision and seems like a genuinely decent person.

I could go on. EmiSunshine who just released her 2nd album, *Ragged Dreams* is now only 13 years old. She too is already receiving critical acclaim.

Aging is inevitable and as we age many of us are guilty of talking about "kids these days" while looking down our noses. As an enthusiastic amateur singer and guitar player, hearing young people with so much talent is intimidating. As a deejay and music lover, I say (dating myself) *the kids are alright!*



Dave Jackson hosts *Open Air*, weekdays on JPR's Rhythm & News Service.



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LEAH DONNELLA

# When 'Where Are You From?' Takes You Someplace Unexpected

Imagine finding out one day that many of the stories that you told about yourself weren't really true. The way you understood your family history, the way you explained your personality ("I'm Italian, of course I talk loud!"), the way you talked about your hair — what if all of it was just, well, stories?

Or maybe even stranger: What if you found out that you had a whole hidden history that you'd never known about? That generations of your family had lived through events that you had no idea you were connected to?

Would that change who you are?

Anita Foeman helps people grapple with these questions all the time. She's a communications professor at West Chester University, where she runs something called the DNA Discussion Project. Participants in the project start out by talking about the narratives that have helped shaped their cultural identity — things like where their families come from, and how they wound up where they are today. Then, everyone takes a DNA test to learn more about what parts of the world they might have ancestry in. When they get the results, together, they reckon with new, sometimes surprising information about their genetic inheritance.

And Foeman says that what they learn is not always comfortable. There are historical revelations — like students who grow up in Protestant families, but learn that genetically, they have significant Ashkenazi Jewish heritage. "But [they have] no stories in their family about that. And so clearly somebody decided it was better not to have that narrative," Foeman says.

Each semester, there are African-American students, like Mikhi Woods, who get a closer look at what it means to be black in America. Woods says that when he participated in the DNA Discussion Project last year, one of his classmates pointed out that seeing a wide swath of European ancestry wasn't necessarily something to be excited about. "Because that just shows the slavery aspect," Woods says. "There are so many traces of European. It just shows the different groups in Europe that had a role."

Beneath the larger social ills that get uncovered — slavery, colonialism, genocide — there are smaller, more personal challenges. Foeman says students frequently wind up having to confront their individual conceptions about what it means to have unexpected genetic links. The first time she did this project in 2006, Foeman says, she tested a white woman who said she'd be surprised if she had any Middle Eastern in her background. "I just don't think my ancestors would do that," Foeman remembers the woman saying.

One of her students, Kimberly Wederfoort, grew up thinking her background was primarily East Asian and European. All her life, she was asked if she had any African-American ances-



CHRISTINA CHUNG FOR NPR

try, and all her life, she said no. But after Wederfoort took her DNA test, she learned that about a quarter of her genetic markers appeared to be African.

"I felt like something wasn't told to me when I found out my nationalities," Wederfoort says. "I felt like something was being hidden from me."

After having some time to process the new information, Wederfoort says that she wouldn't want to change anything about her results. But, she says, "I kind of look at my life and my past a little bit differently now."

The conversations that come out of the DNA Discussion Project often shine a light on how where you grow shapes the way you look at race.

Blanca Velazquez-Martin participated in the DNA Discussion Project because, as an immigrant, she said the way people talked about ethnicity in the United States baffled her at first. Velazquez-Martin moved the U.S. from Mexico City in 2002, when she was 16. At that point, she says, she had always understood her identity to be, simply, "Mexican." But many of her American friends didn't seem to understand that.

"People had a specific idea about what a Mexican looks like, or what I was supposed to be eating, or what my family was supposed to be doing, or even the reason why I moved here," Velazquez-Martin says. She says she learned that "In this country in particular, ethnicity is a big part of how people identify themselves. And in turn, that identity may impact people's decisions, or how other people react to them, or how this country is interacting with them."

For some people, the results of their DNA tests fortified their sense of identity. Mikhi Woods says that now he talks about his racial identity a lot more confidently than before.

"Now, I say confidently that I'm black. And if people ask, 'Well, what is black?' I say, 'Black is African. It's parts of Asia, parts of South America, etcetera. Black is black. It means identity. It means closeness, similarity. And also uniqueness.... I have different parts of me from different walks of life. And it's comforting to know that if anyone took this test, they'd have the same feeling.'"

Others were left with lingering questions. Blanca Velazquez-Martin says she still doesn't know what her results say about who she is. Her DNA results identified significant Native American and European ancestry. But she still thinks of herself, most often, as Mexican.

"In the last years couple years, ethnicity has taken such an important, pivotal role in how this country operates," she says. "I'm in that process of trying to figure out what [this information] means for me and how I'm going to use it as a member of this nation."

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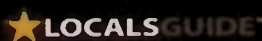
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Aramark and Compass, have announced that by 2024, they'll only buy chickens from companies that give their chickens a better life.

## Perdue Farms Signs Up For A Chicken Welfare Revolution

In a vast, dimly lit barn near Frankford, Delaware, surrounded by tens of thousands of young chickens, about a dozen people in ghostly white coveralls are considering future options for the poultry industry.

Executives from Perdue Farms, the fourth-largest poultry producer in the country, have set up this tour. Their guests include some long-time foes: people who lead influential animal welfare organizations like the Humane Society of the United States, Compassion in World Farming and Mercy for Animals.

They're here because Perdue, breaking ranks with the rest of the industry, has endorsed a major shift in the way it treats its chickens, and it wants to show off what it's done so far. Animal welfare advocates would like to force much of the industry to follow the same path.

This tour involves a side-by-side comparison of two chicken houses. We're in one that's set up to represent typical industry practices. Right next door, though, is Perdue's version of the future, and a Perdue executive, Mike Leventini, leads us into it.

"The first thing you see is, there's windows, right? You get a feel for how much light's in this barn," Leventini says.

He points to the chickens. "They're flapping their wings, they're running around, they're hanging out."

Some of the chickens have climbed up on straw bales; some are perched on little wooden ramps. Others are hiding inside small wooden boxes. Those features don't exist in industry-standard houses.

Leah Garces, executive director of Compassion in World Farming, seems impressed. "It's a big difference," she says. Chickens in the house with natural light are "running around, climbing on things, pecking, perching." Birds in the windowless house, by contrast, are "quiet, they're sitting, they're not moving."

Perdue executives say they're making these changes for a couple of different reasons. First, they've decided that when chickens are more active, their meat is of higher quality. Jim Perdue, the company's chairman, says they learned this while raising chickens according to organic rules. "We're finding that meat from organic chickens is better," he says. "More tender. Different color. Activity is the key. [Organic chickens] are more active, they're running around."

But Perdue is also responding to pressure from some big corporate customers. These are food service companies that operate cafeterias in companies and other institutions. Several of them, including Aramark and Compass, have announced that by 2024, they'll only buy chickens from companies that give their chickens a better life.



DAN CHARLES/NPR

Animal welfare advocates visit a Perdue Farms chicken house.

An executive from one of those companies is here: Maisie Ganzler, from Bon Appetit Management Company, which buys millions of pounds of chicken a year for its corporate cafeterias and museum cafes.

"We've all made our commitments," Ganzler says. "What's next is to live up to the commitments we've made, and I don't say that flippantly; that is a real challenge."

The food service companies say they'll require their chickens to be raised according to new animal welfare rules that have been set by the Global Animal Partnership, an organization that was originally launched by the grocery chain Whole Foods.

That means, in addition to natural light in chicken houses, a new slaughtering process that uses gas to make the birds unconscious before they're killed. This would replace electrical stunning, in which the birds are hung by their feet on a kind of conveyor belt and their heads come into contact with electrically charged water.

Perdue is moving toward satisfying all those requirements. Another part of the new standard, though, will be harder to satisfy.

It involves growing a different kind of chicken that can run and jump more easily because it doesn't put on weight so quickly.

Bruce Stewart-Brown, a veterinarian and senior vice president at Perdue, shows me another side-by-side comparison: two small pens of chickens, one containing the kind of chicken the industry grows now, and the other pen stocked with an older "heritage" breed called Sonoma Red.

I can tell, just by looking at them, that the industry-standard white birds are much more plump, even though all of these chickens are about 41 days old.

Continued on page 37



# 50 ROGUE VALLEY SYMPHONY



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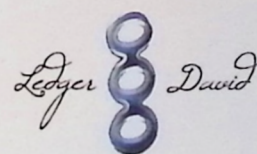
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## The Salt

Continued from page 35

Stewart-Brown gestures toward the pen filled with plump, white birds. "I'm going to guess that that bird is already two pounds heavier than this [Sonoma Red] bird," he says.

These chickens are the product of breeding, selecting chickens that put on weight as fast as possible. "They're just bred for appetite, bred to eat," Stewart-Brown says.

That's great for efficiency of meat production, but these chickens grow so fast that their bones have a hard time supporting their weight. The white birds aren't moving around nearly as much as their slimmer companions. Fast-growing breeds of chickens also are more likely to suffer from leg ailments and other health problems.

The new animal welfare standard from the Global Animal Partnership demands that companies use slower-growing breeds – but it hasn't yet decided exactly which breeds will be meet its standard. And Perdue hasn't promised to meet that standard. "It's really interesting to sign up for something that's not yet decided," Stewart-Brown says wryly. "Kind of uncomfortable." The company is, however, studying half a dozen alternative chicken breeds at a research farm.

Switching to slower-growing chickens could have a big impact on the business. It would take more time and more feed to produce each pound of chicken.

Also, heritage breeds tend to have bigger legs and less breast meat. So if consumers want Perdue to change its chickens, they may have to change a little, too, Stewart-Brown says. They may have to pay more for poultry, or eat more dark meat.

It's conceivable that this could happen, Stewart-Brown says. "Dark-meat eaters are growing, and generally looking for flavor, right? They should be pretty excited about this bird."

Animal welfare advocates like Leah Garces are confident that consumers will force the poultry industry to change, in the same way that the egg industry was forced to shift away from keeping birds in cages. In five or 10 years, she says, slower-growing chickens will be as common as cage-free eggs.



Bruce Stewart-Brown, a veterinarian and senior vice president of Perdue Farms, holds a slower-growing heritage breed chicken.



Dan Charles is NPR's food and agriculture correspondent.

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JEFF BRADY

Growing up in Gold Beach, I always knew pot was for sale but it's strange to see it marketed openly now.

# As Log Trucks And Fishing Boats Leave, Gold Beach Tries To Remake Its Identity

*NPR reporters are returning to their hometowns this summer to find out how they've changed—from job prospects to schools and how people see their community and the country.*

Once home to thriving timber and fishing industries, Gold Beach, Oregon now subsists on tourists and retirees looking for a quiet beach, a nice river trip and, in a few cases, marijuana.

I left Gold Beach after graduating from high school in 1985. Back then, it was a blue-collar town dominated by the timber industry.

Returning 32 years later there are fewer log trucks on the roads, the big mill outside town is gone and the economy has fundamentally changed.

Before I get into details, let's address the question everyone has about Gold Beach. I'm sorry to say there is no "gold" on the "beach". There was some near the mouth of the Rogue River but it was mined in the late 1800s, according to the Oregon Historical Society.

A century later, a different extractive industry was at the center of the local economy. Most of my classmate's parents worked in jobs connected to logging. My dad, for example, worked for the U.S. Forest Service where he helped manage the two-thirds of Curry County that is federal land.

Back then, timber was king and it seemed like the industry always would be at the center of Gold Beach's economic life.

"It was our number one employer at the time. People came from everywhere to work at the mill," says Gold Beach City Councilor Tamie Kaufman. She's a friend and former classmate of mine.

Recently Kaufman and I walked around an old plywood mill site, a few miles up the Rogue River from Gold Beach. The mill closed after logging slowed down in nearby federal forests. One factor was environmental concerns and efforts to preserve the spotted owl.

The mill burned in 1991 and never re-opened. Now the site has, ironically, been taken over by trees.

Without the wages and regular overtime the mill paid, Tamie says the region has struggled economically. Poverty is a persistent problem.

At the grade school I attended, 74 percent of the students now qualify for free and reduced-cost lunches, according to the Oregon Department of Education.

Asked if people want the mill back, Kaufman says the old-timers do but she's not so sure about those who've moved to the city recently. "They're probably used to our quiet, sleepy town and have moved here to retire in a quiet place," says Kaufman.

Today Gold Beach is a retirement destination thanks to rel-

atively cheap homes, a new hospital, low taxes and stunning natural beauty.

You can find solitude on beaches that stretch for miles. The mountains reach down to the coastline and even in town you can see osprey nesting in tall fir trees. Then there's the Rogue River, which is famous for salmon fishing.

Commercial fishing was an important part of the economy three decades ago too. But that's declined along with the timber industry.

"What we used to have here was a fairly robust ocean troll fishery," says one-time commercial fisherman John Wilson. He remembers lining up behind 17 other fishermen to deliver the day's catch to the local cannery in the 1970s.

Now the cannery is closed and the harbor is nearly empty.

Wilson still has a 26-foot, fiberglass fishing boat but he hasn't been out on the ocean this year. He says there's no salmon fishing season off Gold Beach because of restrictions in place to boost runs on a nearby river.

On the other end of the harbor there is one business doing well — Jerry's Rogue Jets, home of Rogue, the dog who likes to herd rocks, is owned by the McNair family.

Scott McNair says they take about 35,000 tourists on boat-trips up the Rogue River each year during the summer months.

"Businesses that survive off a three-month season have to be careful in their expenses," says McNair, because that high season income has to keep the business afloat all year. For that reason he says tourism can't provide the steady paychecks the timber industry did.

Across the river, just outside city limits, a more controversial industry is emerging. In 2014, Oregon voters legalized recreational marijuana.



A Jerry's Rogue Jets boat with tourists on board leaves for a trip up the Rogue River in July.

JEFF BRADY/NPR



Growing up in Gold Beach, I always knew pot was for sale but it's strange to see it marketed openly now.

Club Sockeye is named for a species of salmon. The building has a lighted green cross, "To show the people that this is a place that's cannabis-friendly," says co-owner Earl Crumrine.

He says business is good this time of year, "We're doing about \$50,000 to 60,000 a month." But, like tourism, it's seasonal.

Club Sockeye employs about 30 people – most of them part-time, says Crumrine. And the wages are low – close to the local minimum of \$10 an hour.

The business has become a new source of much-needed revenue for Curry County though. "They are now collecting three percent and it's over \$14,000 a year that the county is going to get from my taxes," Crumrine says.

County Commissioner Court Boice, a Republican who opposed legalizing marijuana, says the county does need new sources of revenue. Voters rejected a series of tax increases for fire and law enforcement in recent years, as policy-makers tried to make up for lost logging revenue.

Boice told me, "When you were growing up here we had 16 road deputies. Now we have about 6 or 7."

That's a half-dozen deputies patrolling a county the size of Rhode Island.

Curry County's population is small – 22,713 is the 2016 U.S. Census estimate – but it's grown by more than 25 percent over the 30 years the number of deputies has declined.

Still Boice is reluctant to label the current situation a crisis. "It is significant enough that people are recognizing that that is something that we can't just overlook or we will lose the reason

we're living here," says Boice.

Around town the term "quality of life" is mentioned often. Usually that refers to easy access to hunting, fishing, camping and hiking. But quality of life doesn't mean much if you can't earn a living.

That's why many conservative leaders in Curry County and across the West want more local control of federal forests. They want to revive the timber industry and bring family-wage jobs back to their communities. President Trump promised as much during a Eugene, Oregon campaign stop last year.

But even in Gold Beach where support for the timber business remains strong there are doubts the industry could ever come back.

"The infrastructure to support that—the mills, the processing areas—all of those are gone," says Gold Beach City Administrator Jodi Fritts-Matthey. And she says an entire generation has grown up now without parents who worked in the mills.

She's focused on boosting tourism and extending the summer high season in Gold Beach through the city's Visitor Center.

Overall, the economic prospects for my hometown of Gold Beach, Oregon look dim. Fortunately there's always the beautiful beach, the river and the forests to console those who still live here.

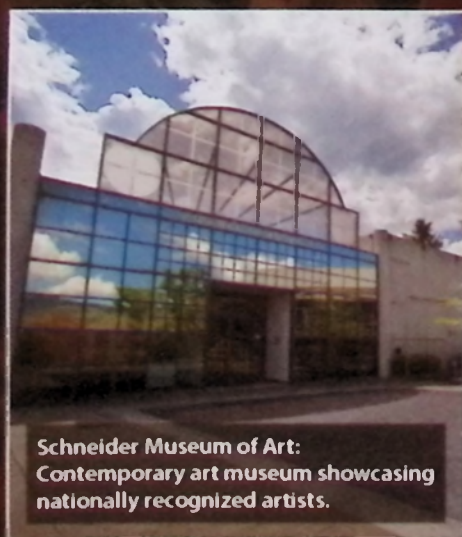


Jeff Brady is a NPR National Desk Correspondent based in Philadelphia. He covers the mid-Atlantic region and the energy industry.

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DON KAHLE

# What Are You Doing After Work?

**W**hat are you planning to do after work? That's a question we ask one another often enough, but it's quickly becoming a question we'll have to ask ourselves. If the second answer follows the pattern of the first, modern society could be in trouble.

Work has been a familiar concept to us for millennia, but for most Westerners "after work" has been with us for barely a century. Before fire and farming, work was life. Every moment was devoted to survival. "After work" and the afterlife were synonymous.

Once we mastered agriculture and animal husbandry, the calories required for daily sustenance were a bit easier to come by, except when they weren't. Weather, war, and bad luck had to be taken into account. If there was more work to be done, it was better to do it and store any surplus – just in case.

Only since the industrial revolution have most workers received a wage for a number of years, followed occasionally by a pension paid by their employer. Social Security has not yet reached the life expectancy of its average recipient. The average American retiree will live to see 85 years or so. Social Security was born 82 years ago.

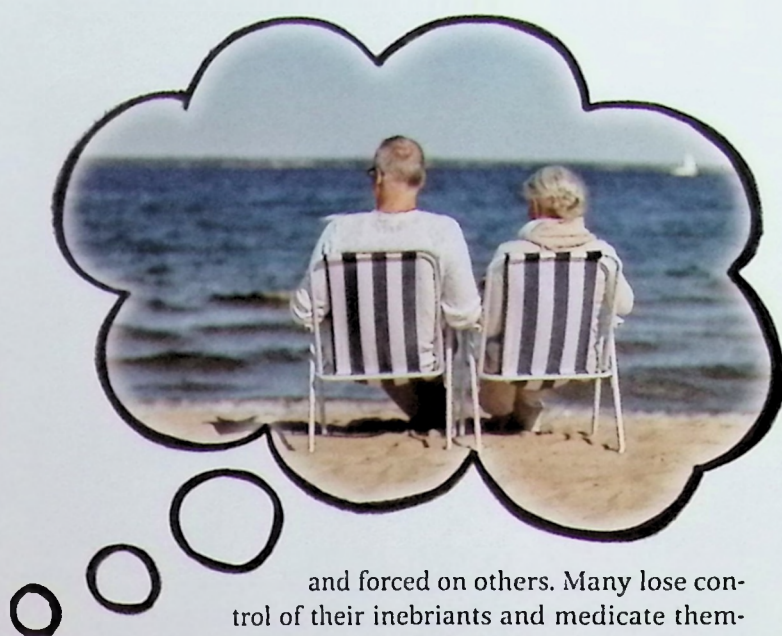
Social Security began long enough ago that we've forgotten what those two words meant to earn their capitalization. Security is what American elders lacked after the Great Depression and Society was what suffered. "Societal Security" would better express the need the program met, but saving two syllables for decades to come gave us "Social Security."

Thanks to FDR's New Deal, the elderly could stop working and keep eating. The rest of society could go to work, no longer distracted by the destitute begging on sidewalks and near soup lines. Workers could begin dreaming about retirement without dread. Still, "after work" was reserved for those who lived longer than their peers. In 1935, the average American at the retirement age of 65 had been dead for three years.

So we brought "after work" into our weekly routine. More of us began to relax, separating work from life, asking each other about our plans "after work."

Our reply commonly referenced (recently re-legalized) alcohol or some other inebriant. Work was no longer constant and unending, so the idea of not working became intoxicating. Habits took different shapes, but they shared the pattern of letting go, giving in, settling down and getting away. Americans became prepositional with what they would do after work.

We embraced "after work" but now it threatens to strangle us. It's hunting us down. Retirement at 50 is offered to some



and forced on others. Many lose control of their inebriants and medicate themselves from morning until night. Whether it's alcohol or opioids or pornography or video games or binge-watching, the value and hope that work provides is fading away.

Will "after work" have any meaning for those who never worked? That's becoming an urgent question. Automation has recently begun outpacing consumption. We can no longer buy stuff fast enough to keep everybody busy making and delivering it.

Underdeveloped countries might follow us into the over-consumption trap, keeping the current model afloat for a few

Pick your metric. American life has stopped getting better.

more decades, but that's no longer a sure bet. America is increasingly becoming a cautionary tale of obesity, depression, isolation and desperation.

Pick your metric. American life has stopped getting better. Life expectancy, infant mortality rates, family stability and support, even schoolchildren's test scores – we're losing ground to societies that promise less and expect more. We're still where innovation and creativity grow best, but fewer laurels that offer us less rest.

Which is why we must redouble our voice to ask that first question, hard and strong, while we still can. Company-paid retirements have become rare. Jobs are being replaced by temporary "gigs." Work itself will soon become a lifestyle choice. What will that look like, and how can we help those who are slow and resistant to change?

What will our societal security require 100 years after Social Security was founded? We don't know, and we're running out of time to find out.



Don Kahle (fridays@dksez.com)  
blogs at [www.dksez.com](http://www.dksez.com).



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- Firewise & Deer Resistant Landscaping - Sept. 28th, 6pm  
At North Mountain Nature Center in Ashland
- Planting for Fall Color and Texture - Sept. 30th, 10am

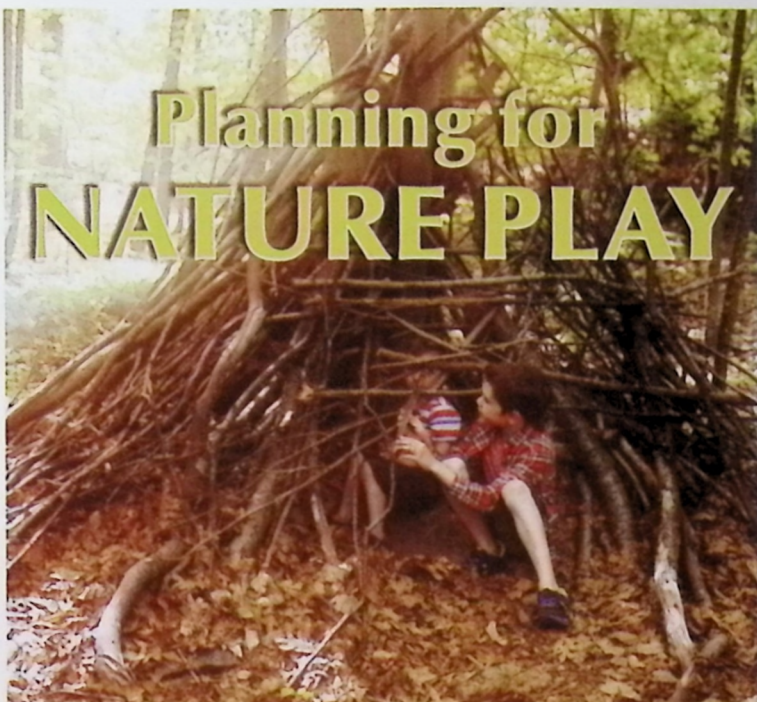
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[AshlandParksandRec.org](http://AshlandParksandRec.org) | 541.488.6606

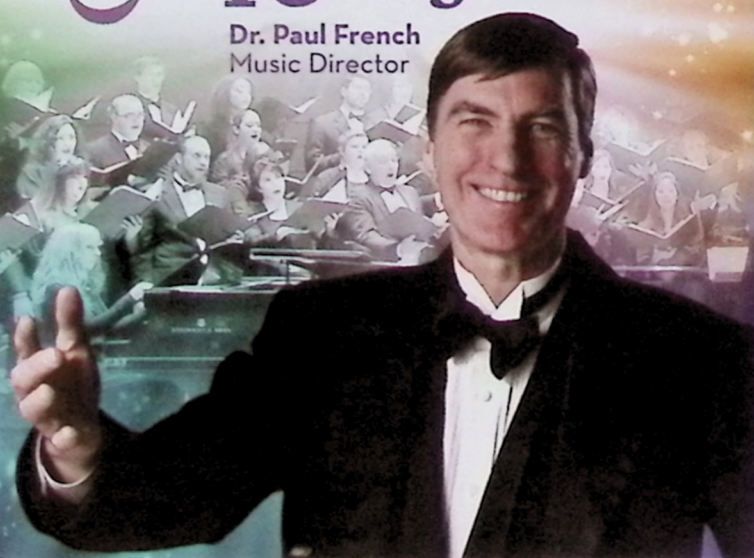


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October 28, 2017, 7:30 pm  
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#### The Snow Lay Deep on the Ground

December 16, 2017, 7:30 pm  
December 17, 2017, 3:00 pm



#### First Light: James M. Collier New Works Festival

March 3, 2018, 7:30 pm  
March 4, 2018, 3:00 pm



#### Baroque Majesty

May 19, 2018, 7:30 pm  
May 20, 2018, 3:00 pm



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## SPLENDID TABLE

LYNNE ROSSETTO KASPER  
& SALLY SWIFT

# Rustic Jam Shortbread Tart

Cut into buttery little pieces, this cross between a tart and a cookie crumbles and then melts away as you eat it. Best of all, this recipe belies the assumption that you need the angels on your shoulder to make tender pastry, and that it takes a lot of time.

This shortbread comes together in a blur. You side-step a rolling pin by patting the crust into the pan with your fingers, and the filling is as easy as taking jam straight from the refrigerator.

Shortbread is a gift to all the pastry-shy of this world. Its generous amount of butter and lack of liquid protects the dough from toughening. Shortbread is also the first cousin of the dreaded piecrust.

Learn to make shortbread and any piecrust will fall at your feet. There is one key step in this recipe which will ensure success with any pie dough you ever attempt. Once all the ingredients are together in the processor, pulse them only until they begin to gather together in small clumps – better early than late.

**Cook to Cook:** You can take this filling in many directions. For instance, mix together bits of jam from the bottoms of the jars in the refrigerator, use sweet chutneys and conserves, add citrus zest and spices or merely dust the pastry with cinnamon and sugar before baking.

When you bake with almonds, as in this shortbread, remember that the ones sold in the baking aisle are often tasteless. It's better to use nuts from the snack section. Don't worry if they are salted or not skinned, they will be fine in this recipe.

Serve the tart warm, but not hot because hot jam can burn.

Keeps 2 days tightly wrapped on the counter.

### Ingredients

Zest of ½ lemon

¼ cup whole almonds

¾ cup unbleached all-purpose flour, organic preferred (measured by dipping and leveling)

¼ cup sugar

Generous pinch salt

6 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, cut in 6 chunks

1 large egg yolk

½ teaspoon almond extract

½ to ¾ cup jam (tart cherry and wild blueberry are especially good)

### Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F. Butter a 9-inch dark-colored cake or tart pan. (If using a silver-colored pan, bake the tart an additional 5 minutes to brown the bottom of the crust.)
2. With the food processor running, drop in the lemon peel and almonds, and grind them fine. Stop the machine, scrape down the sides, and add the flour, sugar, salt, butter, egg yolk, and almond extract. Pulse until they are blended and start to come together in small clumps at the bottom of the processor. (They should look like clusters of peas.)
3. Turn the pastry into the pan. With your hands pat it out to evenly cover the bottom of the pan. Give the tart a standing rim by nudging the dough up the sides of the pan by ½ inch. Don't worry if it looks a little ragged.
4. Bake the crust in the center of the oven for 20 minutes, or until its edges are golden and the center is starting to color. The rim will sink down a little, which is fine.
5. Remove the pan from the oven, and turn the heat up to 500°F. Carefully spread the jam over the tart, and return it to the oven for another 5 to 10 minutes, or until the jam is bubbly.
6. Cool the tart on a rack, slice it into squares or wedges, and serve.



Lynne Rossetto Kasper is co-host of *The Splendid Table*





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FALL EXHIBITION IMAGES (LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM, DETAILS):

Clifford Wilton, *Green Figure*, Oil on canvas 20 x 24"

Loren Munk, *Critical America* (study), Oil on Linen, 24 x 18"

Nathaniel Meade, *Tints*, Gouache on paper, 11 x 11.5"

Alexander Calder, *Sun with Fern*, Gouache on paper

## Schneider Museum of Art FALL EXHIBITIONS

OCTOBER 6 – DECEMBER 16, 2017

Loren Munk: *PAINTING about THINKING about PAINTING*  
Clifford Wilton Exhibition • Nathaniel Meade: *The Wait*  
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*As It Was* is a co-production of Jefferson Public Radio and the Southern Oregon Historical Society. The series' script editor and coordinator is Kernan Turner, whose maternal grandmother arrived in Ashland in 1861 via the Applegate Trail.

*As It Was* airs Monday through Friday on JPR's Classics & News service at 9:30am and 1:00pm; on the News & Information service at 9:57am and 9:57pm following the *Jefferson Exchange*.

## Lillian Parson Invents Electrolysis For Extracting Mercury

By Alice Mullaly

If Lillian Parson were still manager of the War Eagle Mine in northern Jackson County, as she had been in the 1940s, she'd probably oppose stopping work for a clean-up suggested by the Department of Environmental Quality. That's the way she was, too busy to stop working for anything.

She had worked from the time she was 12, selling magazines, in vaudeville, in a laundry, running a cigar stand and establishing a successful lunch counter. She married young, had three children, and got a high school diploma at night.

She and her second husband, Alan Parson, ran the War Eagle Mine. There she invented a system to extract mercury from cinnabar ore using electrolysis, a far more efficient method than the previous system of heating the ore in retorts. But mercury prices fell after World

War II and the mine closed before employing her system.

Parson then managed a large redwood logging operation, overseeing and sometimes antagonizing male managers from the woods to the mill.

In 1966, she reappeared in the Applegate Valley, showing off her improved mercury recovery system. At 75, this indomitable woman was in the mining business again.

SOURCES: Ziegler, Maude. "Process Recovers Mercury from Cinnabar by Electrolysis." Medford Mail Tribune, 3 Apr. 1966. Environmental Cleanup Site Information Database Site Summary Report-Details for Site ID 3900, 'War Eagle Mine, Oregon DEQ, 18 July 2017, [www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/env-cleanup/Pages/ecsi.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/env-cleanup/Pages/ecsi.aspx). Accessed 20 July 2017.

## Mount Shasta Attracts Spiritual Seekers

By Sharon Bywater

Snow-capped, 14,180-foot-high Mount Shasta has always attracted those pursuing the spiritual or the supernatural. Some seek Bigfoot. Native Americans consider it a sacred place. Others believe it is inhabited by Lemurians, ancient, peaceful beings who live inside the mountain in a crystal city called Telos.

Shasta Vortex Adventures specializes in tours of the mountain's "sacred" sites. The founder, who goes by the single name Ashalyn, has written books on her contacts with what she calls "sentient Earth beings."

She told a National Public Radio reporter that the ancient North Pacific continent of Lemuria sank thousands of years ago during a thermonuclear war with Atlantis. The Lemurians retreated into Mount Shasta and have mostly stayed there, although there were re-

ports in the 1940s of seeing tall, long-robed creatures shopping in town. They paid with chunks of gold and disappeared without waiting for their change.

There haven't been any recent authenticated sightings, but Ashalyn said customers come from all over the world "for spiritual growth, healing...figuring out what their life purpose is, and sometimes just to feel the energy."

SOURCES: Conrad, Chris. "Amazing Race." Medford mail Tribune, 23 Apr. 2006, our valley ed., p. 41+; Jackson, Steven. "A Mountain Of Many Legends Draws Spiritual Seekers From Around The Globe." National Public Radio/Jefferson Public Radio, National Public Radio, 7 June 2015, [www.npr.org/2015/06/07/412098380/a-mountain-of-many-legends-draws-spiritual-seekers-from-around-the-globe](http://www.npr.org/2015/06/07/412098380/a-mountain-of-many-legends-draws-spiritual-seekers-from-around-the-globe). Accessed 22 July 2017.



## POETRY

PETER E. YEAGER

### Still Here

*for Fredrick Zydek (1938-2016) and  
Sydney Brown, who makes our gardens grow*

*Your ghost hovers near  
urging me to re-examine  
my roots, brush away dirt,  
replant them in more fertile*

*soil; pay more attention,  
give gratitude for  
gardeners God sent us  
to prop our fading vines.*

*You follow me through  
distracted pages,  
unweeded rows,  
hoping I'd notice*

*you'd sent angels,  
agents to inspect:  
Did I remember to set  
out beer to drown*

*snails & slugs that bore  
the strawberries? Select  
right varieties of lettuce:  
trout back, merlot?*

*Soak the heirloom tomatoes'  
roots, celebrate arugula,  
basil and thyme  
in hopes they survive*

*the journey to the river  
whose flow still ripples  
with your meditations,  
where your ghost beckons,*

*and winged things whisper  
from my shoulder. Fred,  
I never forgot your voice;  
I just forget to listen.*

### Haunted Moths

From behind the shed  
in the deep shade  
of photinia bushes  
become trees,  
among piles  
of many seasons' leaves,  
long ignored,  
where I tore  
down the rotted  
wooden fence,  
slow and brown  
as rusty nails  
sudden  
haunted moths  
flutter past my face.

### Taking the Country for a Ride

The significance of farm implements  
alongside a field, a pile of dry logs  
for firing, several thick-shirted men  
teething same with hungry saws,  
rows of fresh dirt  
breaking even under  
a straight light kind of a sky  
crowded with colliding clouds;  
and what all this means to a city  
sneezer sucking the husky organic aroma  
manuring the air maneuvering through  
rolled down windows, speculating  
the profit margins of International  
Harvester and John Deere, the only  
comfort being Southern cows  
knee-deep in mud of their own making,  
spindly-legged and udder sacs swaying  
sashaying back from the fields  
as if they had no better place to go.

---

Peter E. Yeager holds degrees in English and law from Rutgers University. His poems have appeared in *The Cape Rock*, *South Dakota Review*, *The Passaic Review*, *Small Pond*, *Orphic Lute*, *The Periodical of Art in Nebraska*, *Christianity and Literature*, and other journals. For more than 20 years he wrote appeals briefs for attorneys representing Social Security disability and Workers' Compensation claimants. A singer with the Rogue Valley Chorale, he lives in Medford.

Writers may submit original poetry for publication in *Jefferson Journal*. Email 3-6 poems, a brief bio, and your mailing address in one attachment to [jeffmopoetry@gmail.com](mailto:jeffmopoetry@gmail.com), or send 3-6 poems, a brief bio, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Amy Miller, Poetry Editor  
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Please allow eight  
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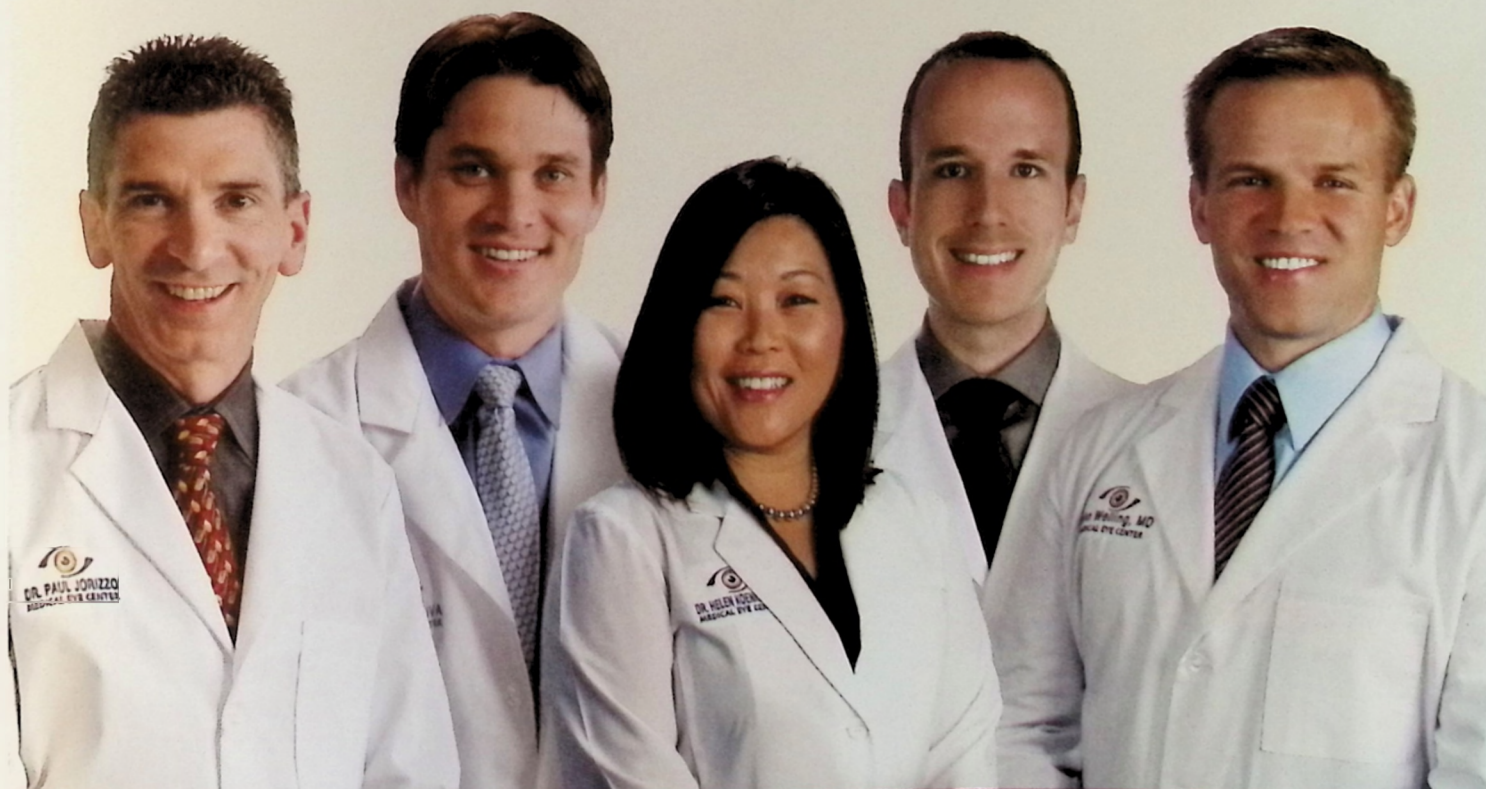
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